



A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

WHEN DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT





The route to your roots

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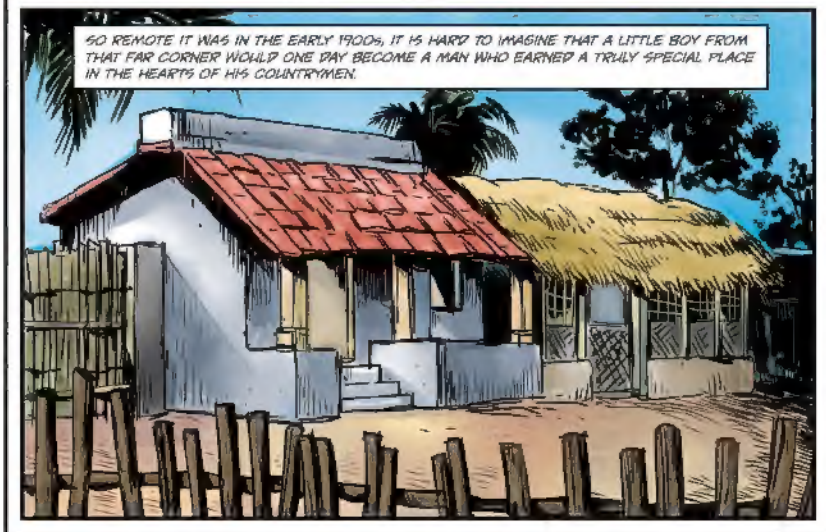
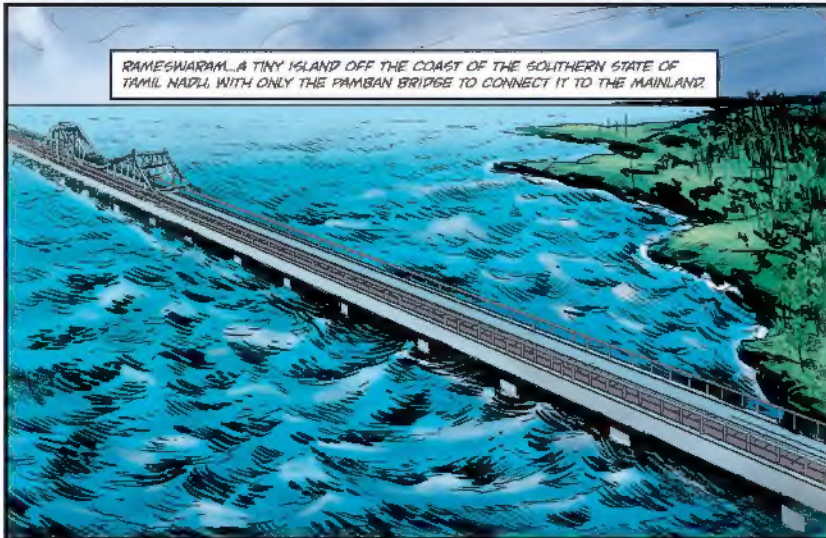
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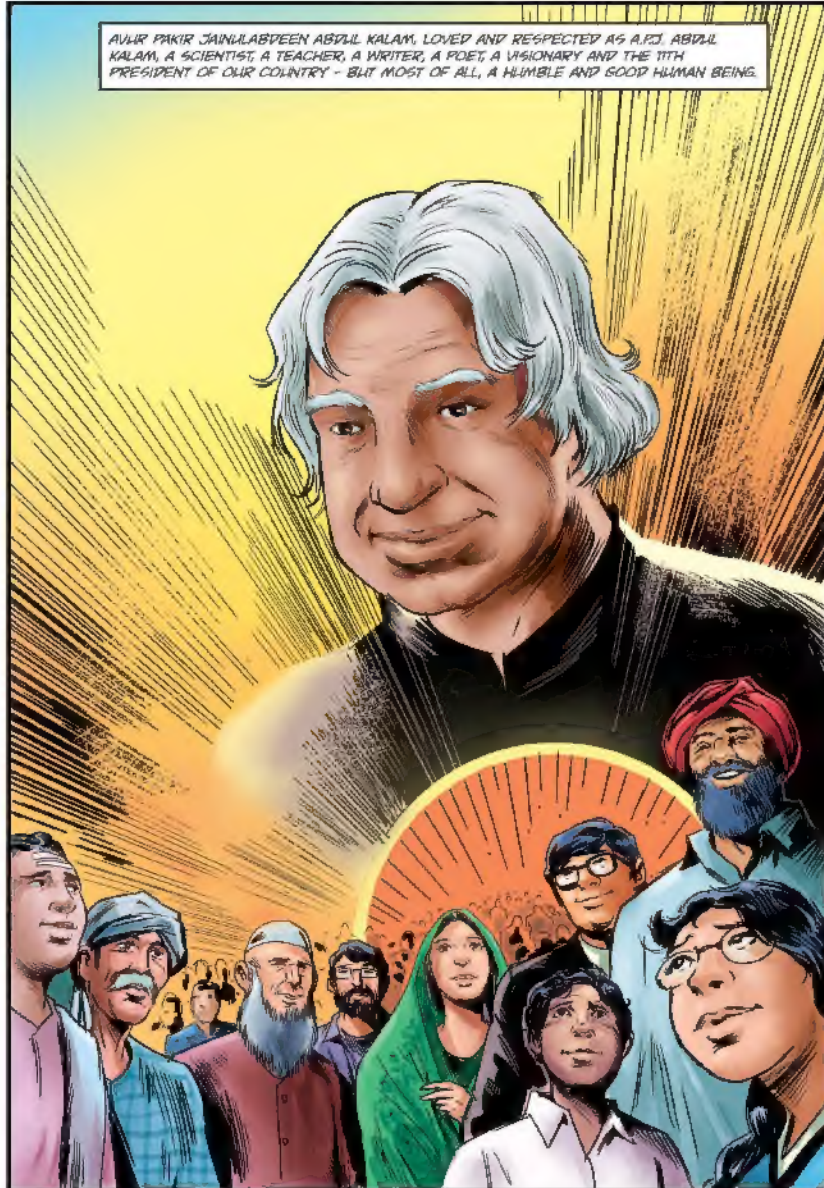
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A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM



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BORN ON 15 OCTOBER, 1931, ABDUL WAS THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF JAINULABDEEN AND ASHAMA. HIS FATHER WAS THE IMAM OF THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND ABDUL GREW UP SURROUNDED BY COCONUT TREES, THE SEA, THE WIND AND THE CALL FOR PRAYER.



WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE VISIT OUR TOWN, BAWA??

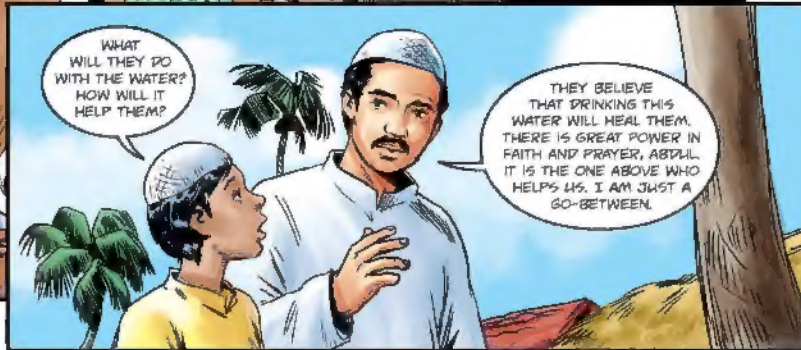
OH, WE ARE LUCKY WE LIVE IN SUCH A HOLY TOWN, ABDUL. DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE LORD RAMA BUILT THE BRIDGE TO GO TO LANKA AND RESCUE HIS WIFE, SITA?

ON THEIR WAY BACK, SITA HERSELF MADE THE LINGAM* THAT IS IN THE RAMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE.



IMAM SAAB, PLEASE BLESS THIS WATER. MY WIFE IS VERY SICK.

MANY PEOPLE CONSIDERED ABDUL'S FATHER A HEALER AND BROUGHT HIM WATER INTO WHICH HE DIPPED HIS FINGERS WHILE CHANTING PRAYERS.

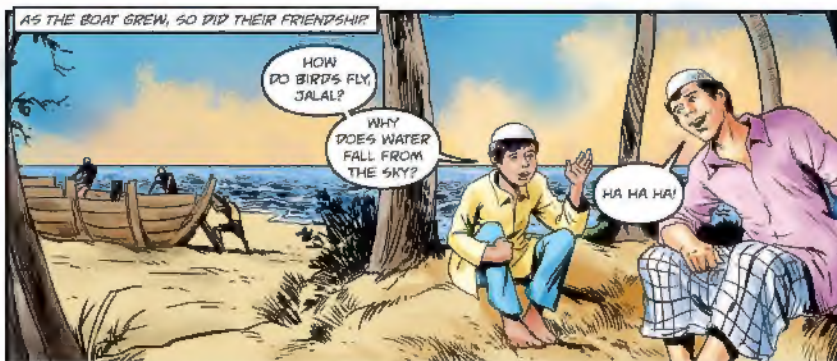
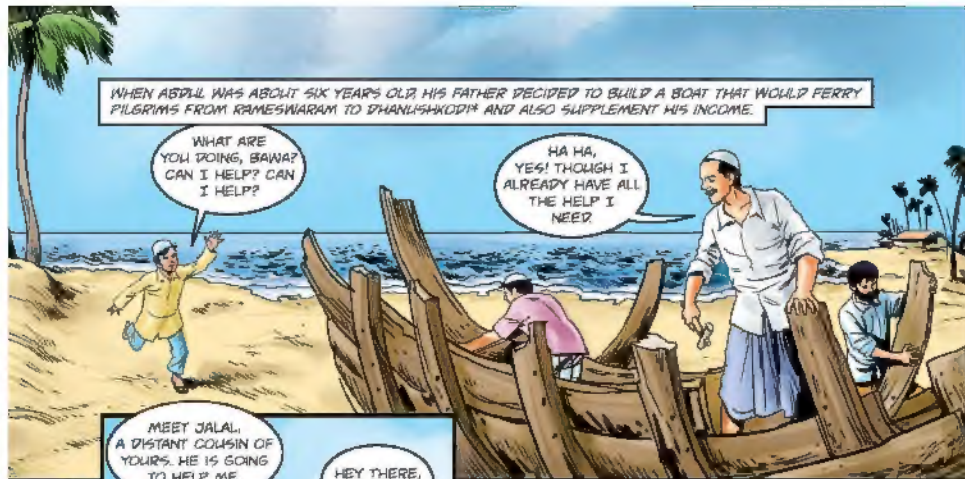


WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH THE WATER? HOW WILL IT HELP THEM?

THEY BELIEVE THAT DRINKING THIS WATER WILL HEAL THEM. THERE IS GREAT POWER IN FAITH AND PRAYER, ABDUL. IT IS THE ONE ABOVE WHO HELPS US. I AM JUST A GO-BETWEEN.

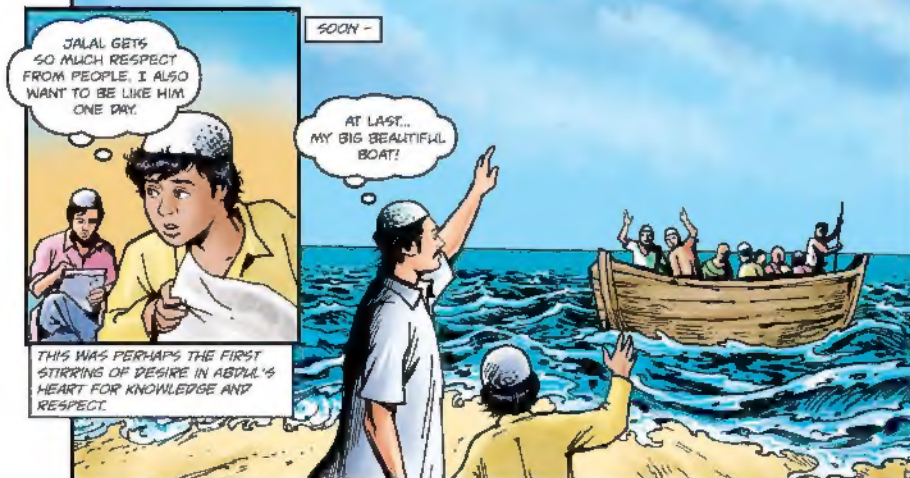
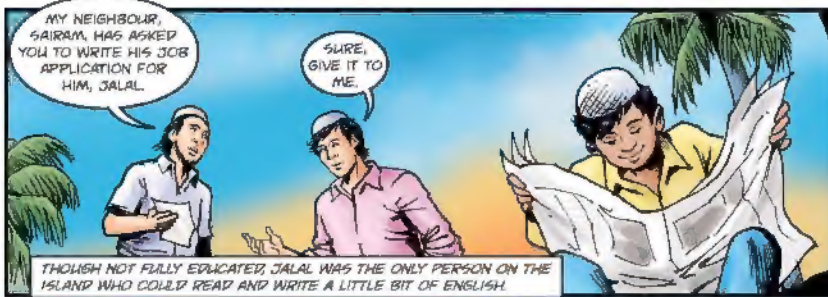
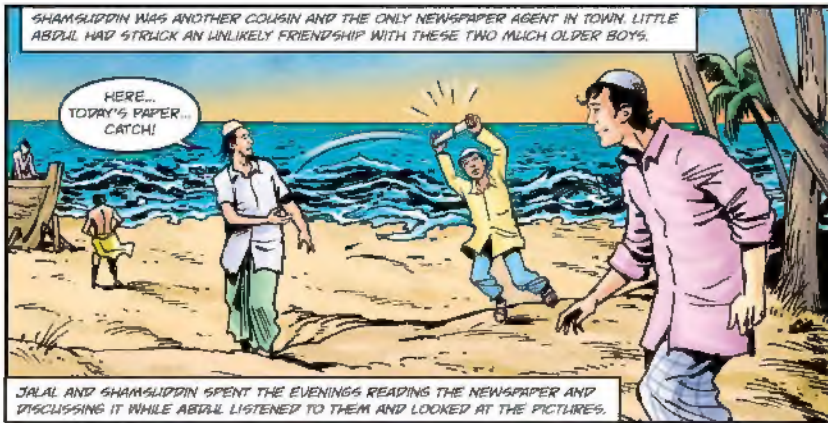
*FATHER

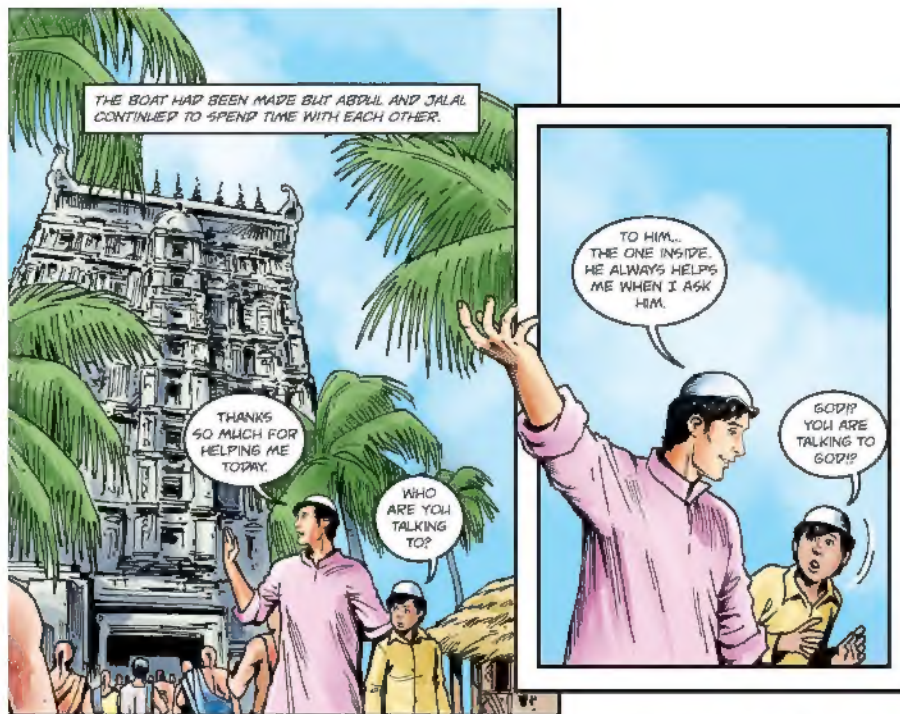
*SYMBOL OF SHIVA

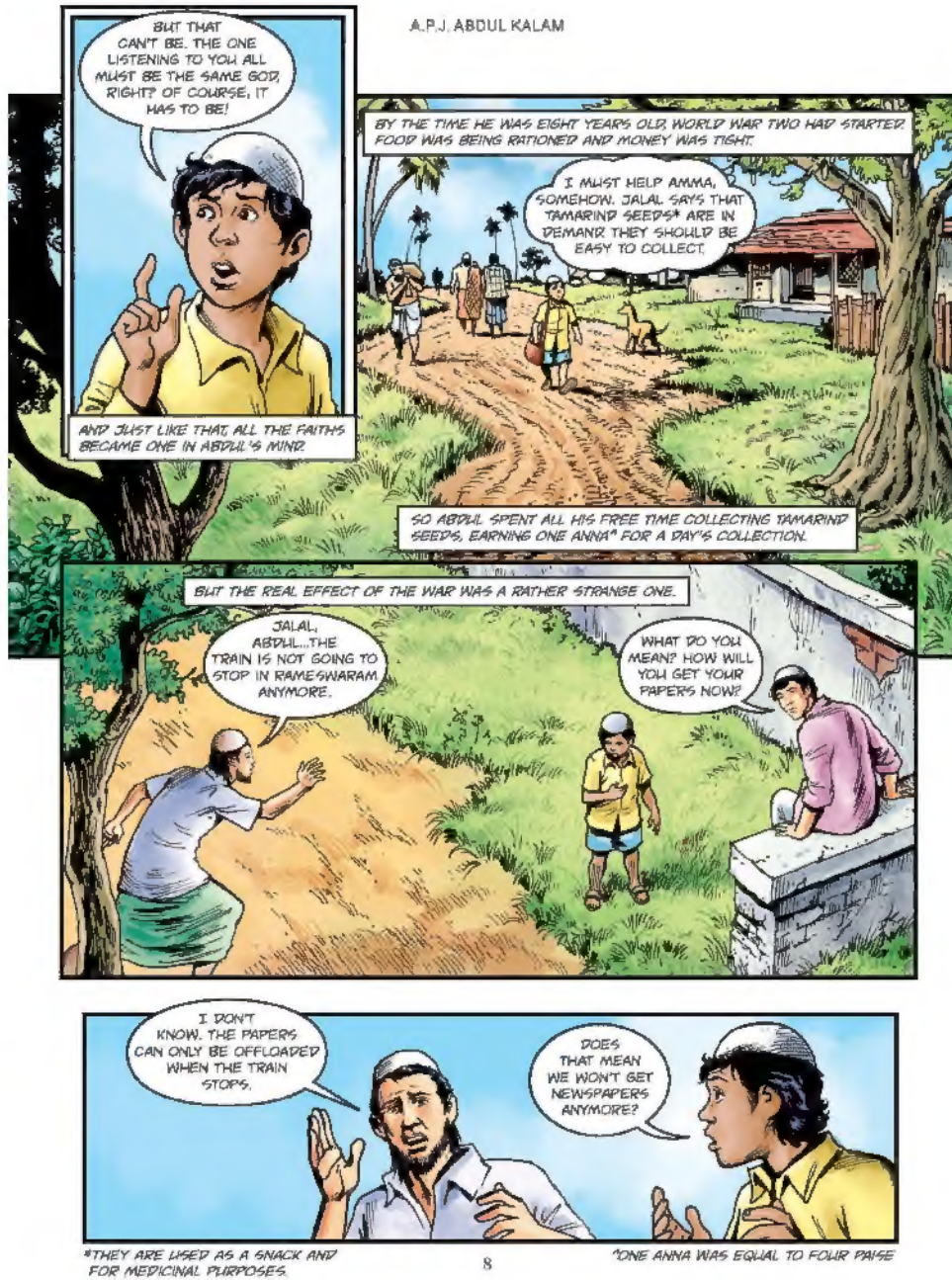


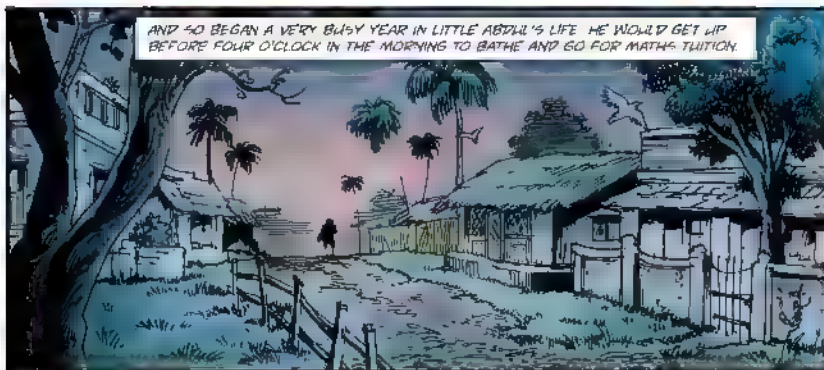
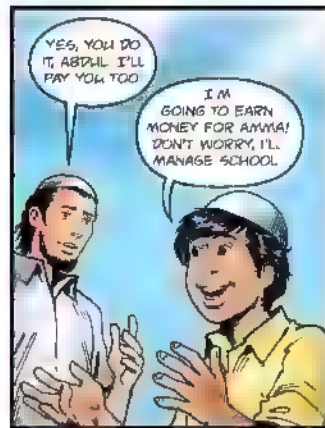
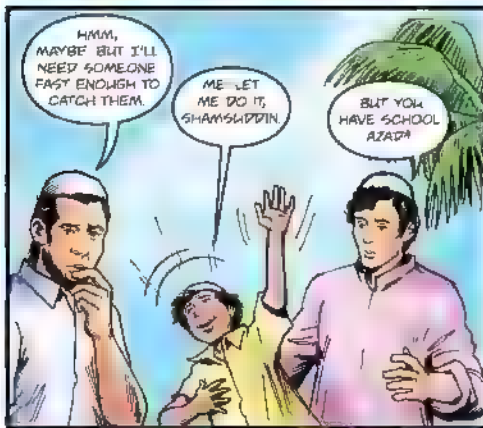
*A TOWN AT THE SOUTH-EASTERN END OF PAMBAN ISLAND, DHANUSHKODI WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED IN A CYCLONE IN 1964 AND IS NOW ONLY A 'GHOST TOWN'.











*JALAL USED TO CALL HIM AZAD POSSIBLY A REFERENCE TO HIS NAMESAKE, THE FREEDOM FIGHTER ABUL KALAM AZAD.

THEN HIS FATHER WOULD TAKE HIM TO ARABIC SCHOOL TO LEARN THE QURAN SHARIF



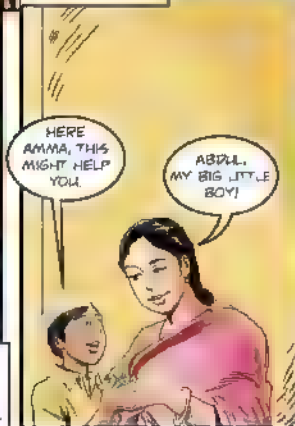
AFTER WHICH HE WOULD RUSH TO THE TRAIN STATION AND WAIT FOR THE NEWSPAPERS TO ARRIVE.



ABDUL WOULD THEN RUN AROUND TOWN DELIVERING THE NEWSPAPERS.



AFTER A FULL DAY AT SCHOOL, HE WOULD GO ALL AROUND TOWN AGAIN, COLLECTING THE NEWSPAPER DUES AND THEN GIVE THEM TO SHAMSUDDIN, WHO WOULD PAY HIM HIS DAILY WAGE'S.

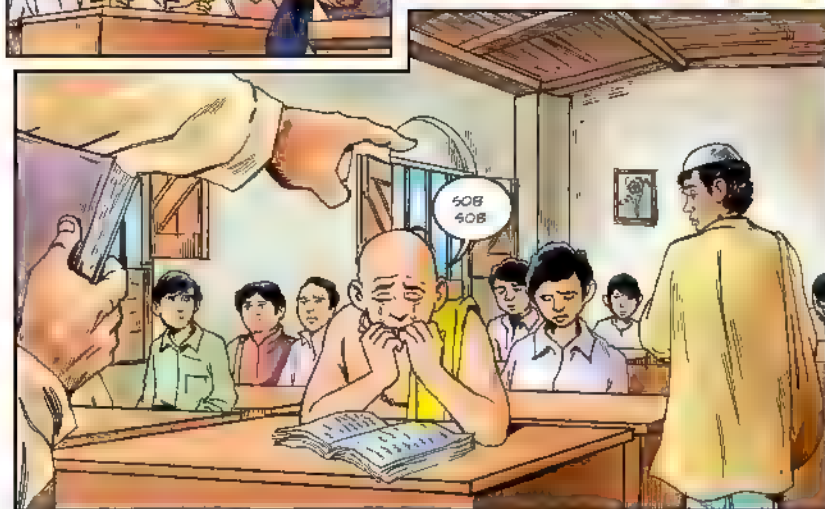
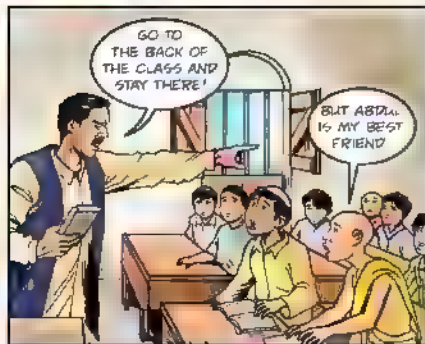
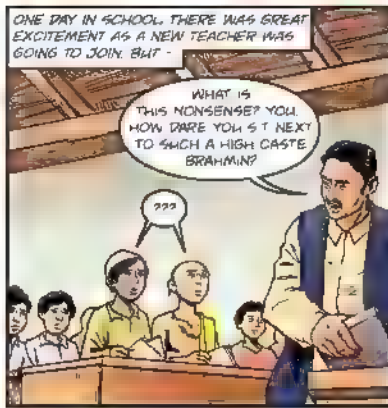
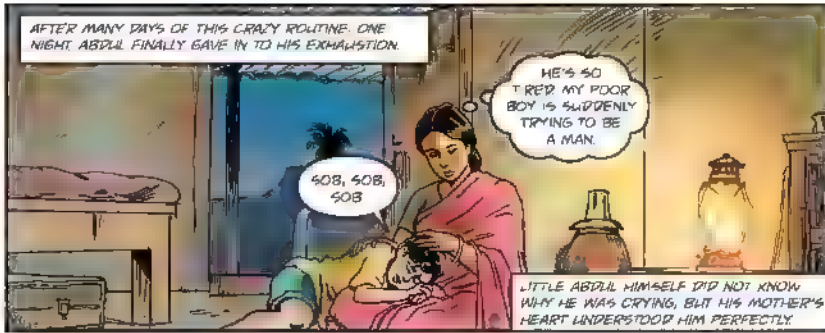


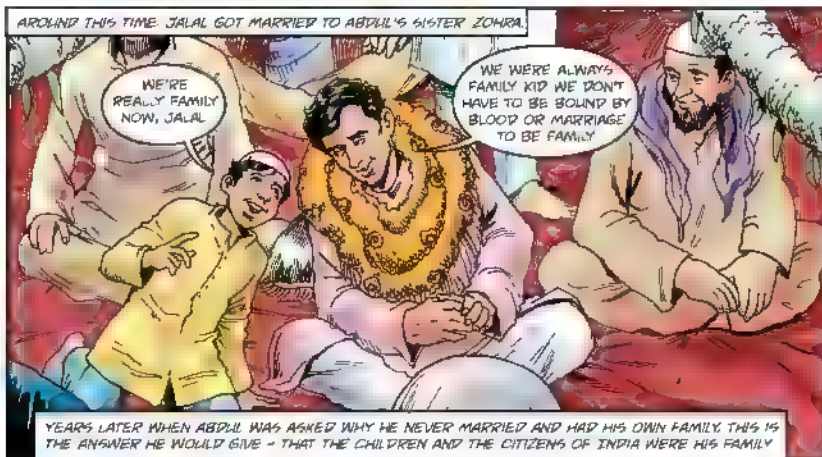
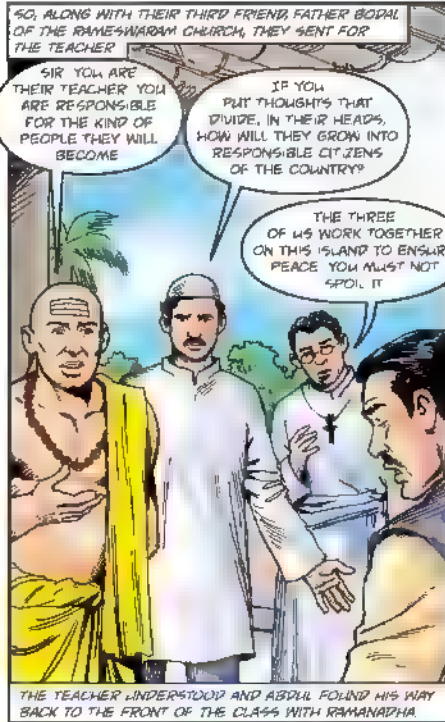
HE STILL HAD FRIENDS TO PLAY WITH AND HOMEWORK TO DO

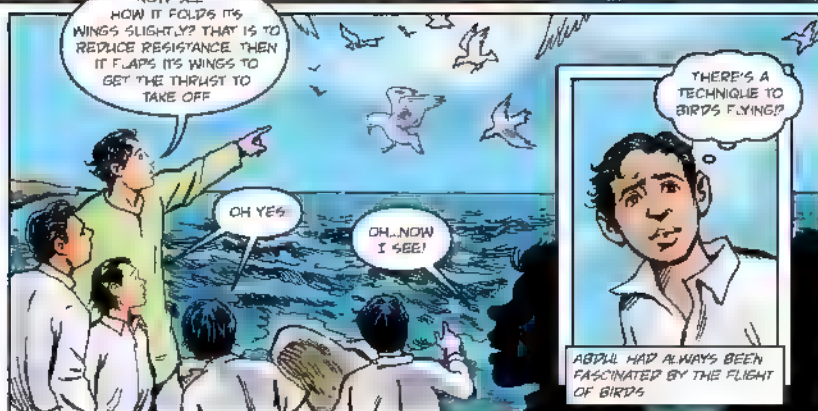
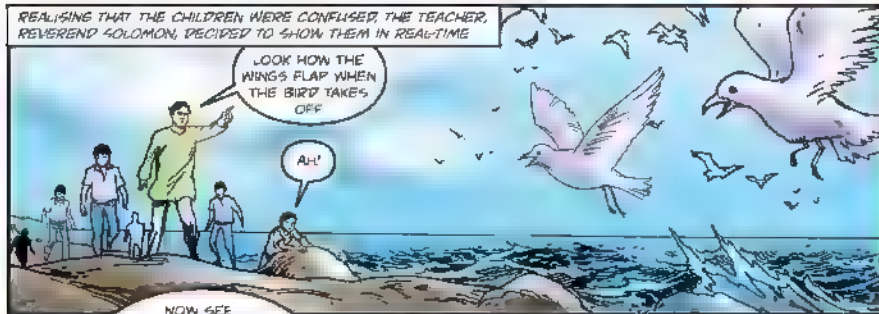
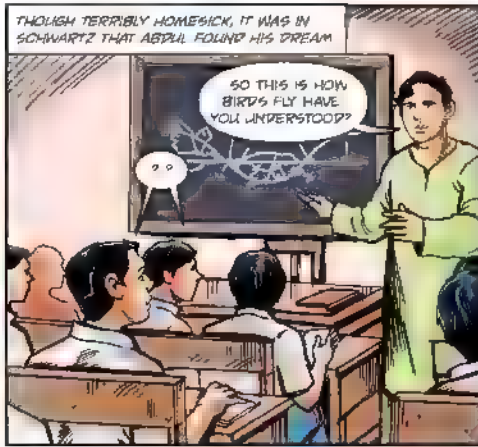


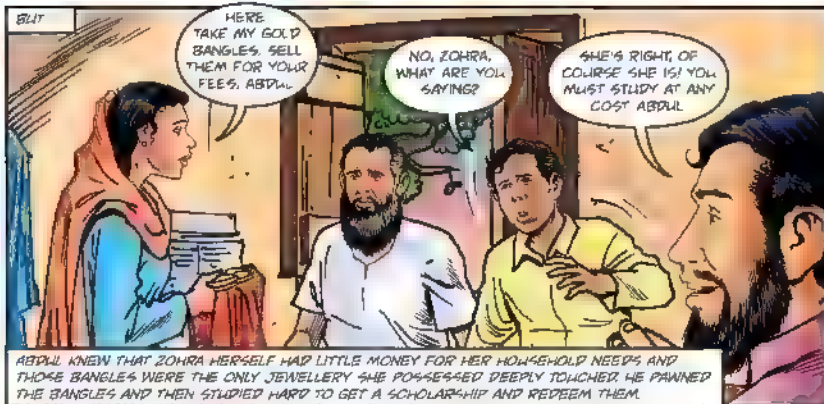
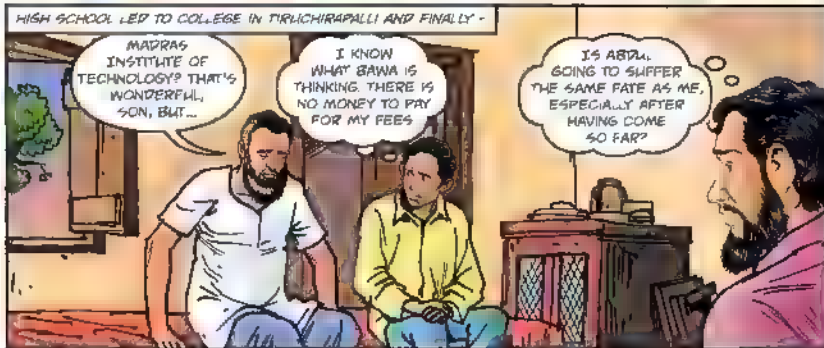
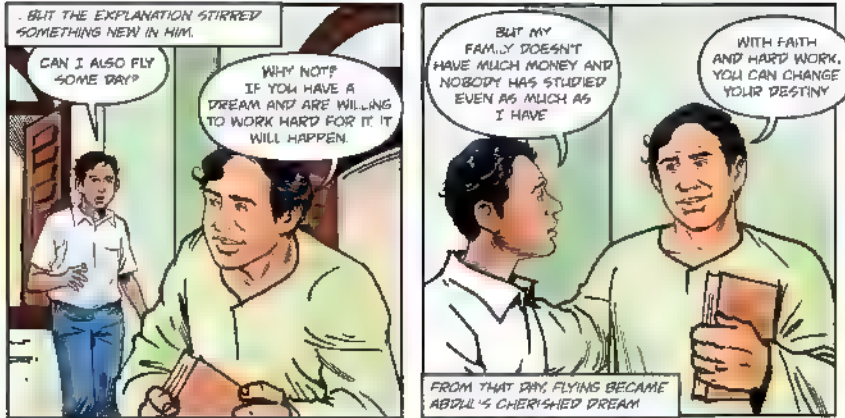
BY EIGHT O'CLOCK HE WOULD REACH HOME FOR BREAKFAST AND THEN HEAD TO SCHOOL WHEN HIS CLASSMATES WERE JUST STARTING THEIR DAY, HE WAS ALMOST HALFWAY THROUGH HIS!

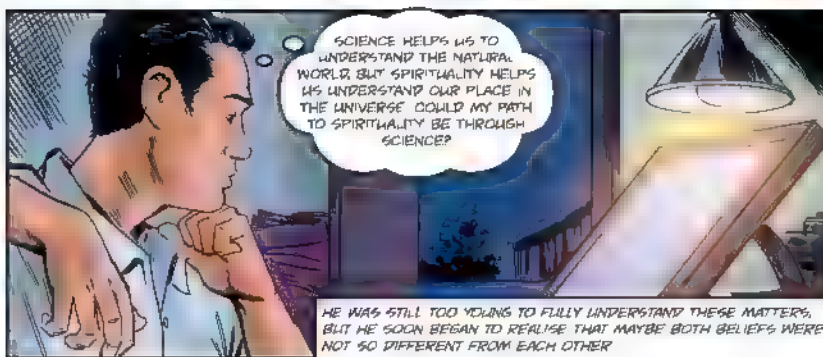
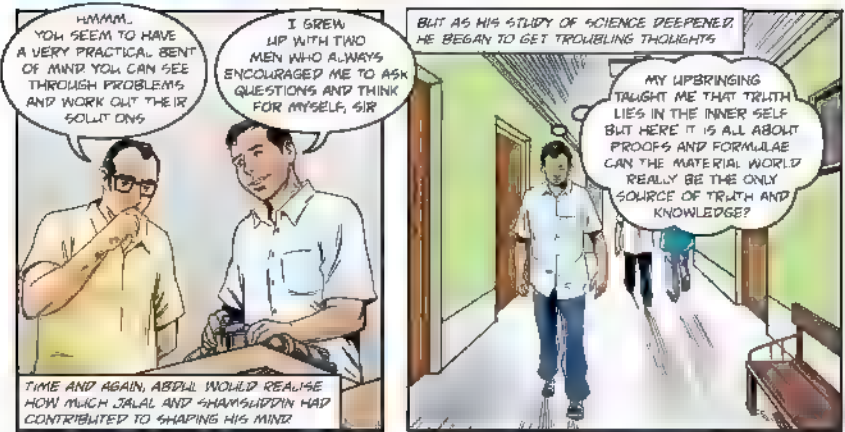
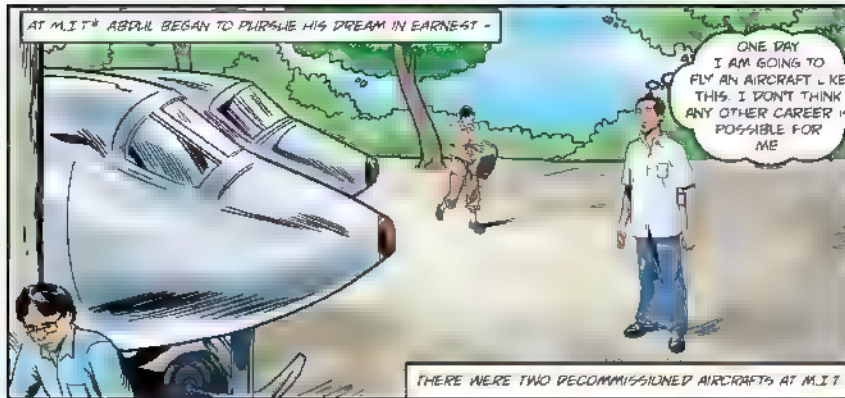
AFTER WHICH HE WOULD FALL INTO AN EXHAUSTED SLEEP



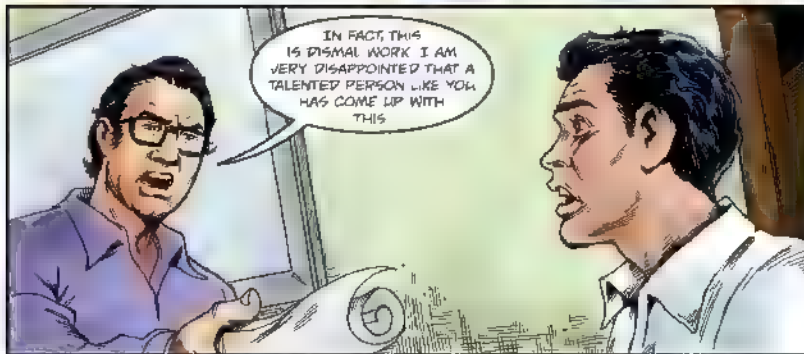
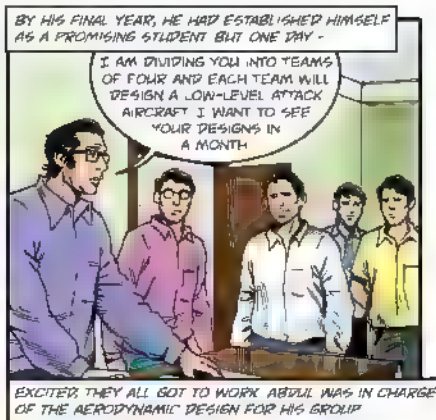


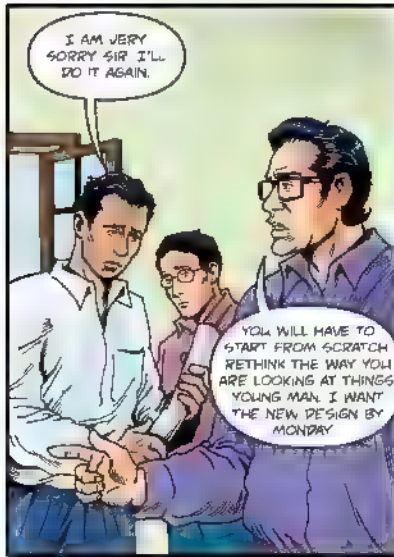


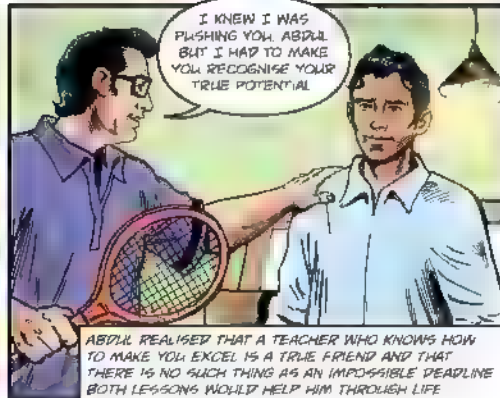
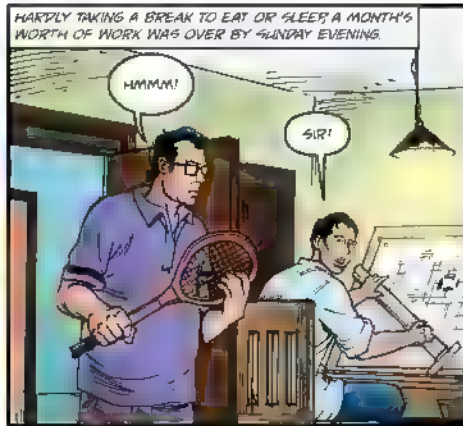
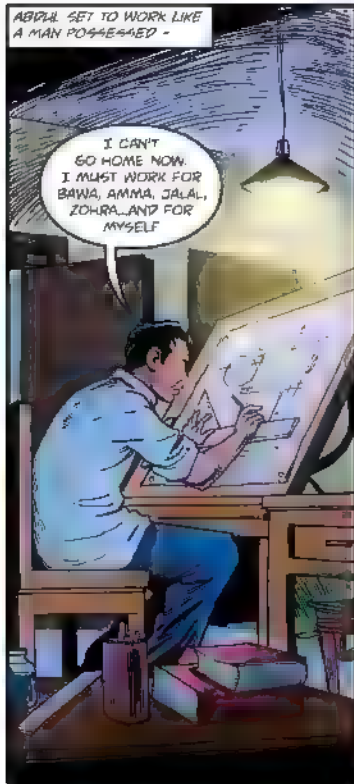




*MADRAS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY







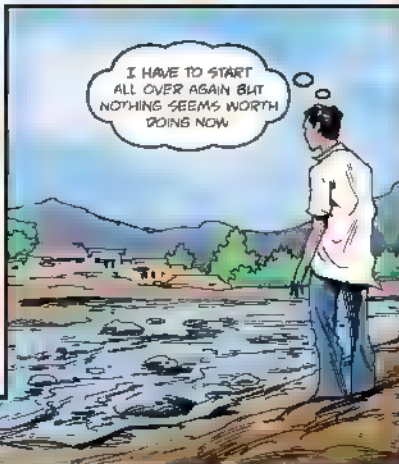
WITH M.I.T, HIS FORMAL EDUCATION WAS OVER. HE GAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION (DTDP) AIR, AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN DELHI AND THEN WENT TO DEHRADUN TO TRY OUT FOR THE AIR FORCE



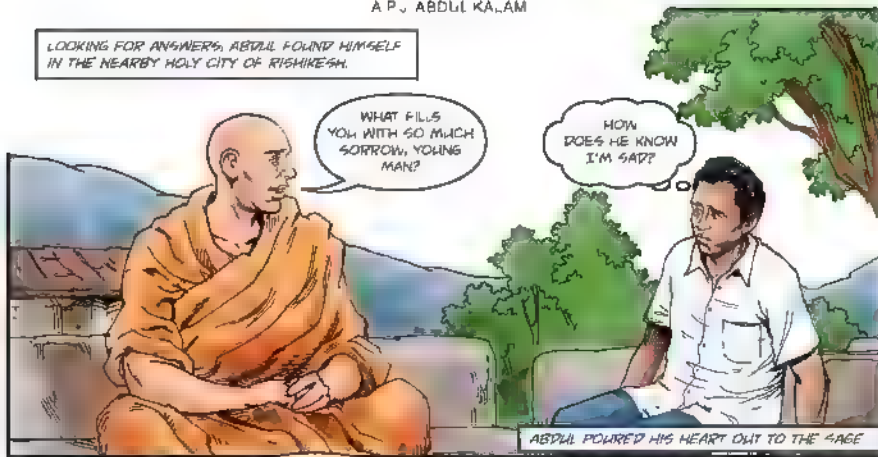
IN TRUTH, ABDUL HAD ALSO WORKED HARD ON HIMSELF THOUGH STILL A SHY, SMALL-TOWN BOY, HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND MAKE HIMSELF MORE SELF-CONFIDENT.



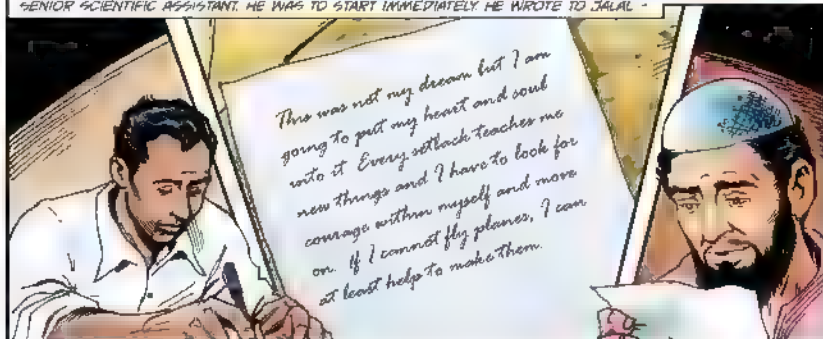
HE COULD NOT BELIEVE IT. HIS AIR FORCE DREAM HAD BEEN SHATTERED - THE ONLY DREAM HE HAD EVER HAD AND WORKED SO HARD FOR - AND BY SO NARROW A MARGIN.

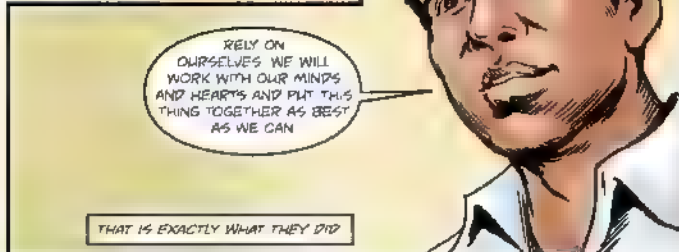


LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, ABDUL FOUND HIMSELF IN THE NEARBY HOLY CITY OF RISHIKESH.

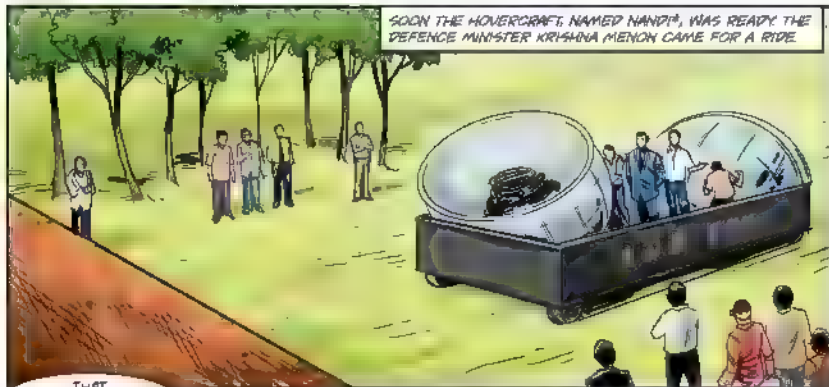


RECHARGED, ABDUL WENT BACK TO DELHI WHERE HE FOUND THAT HE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AT DRDP AS SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT. HE WAS TO START IMMEDIATELY. HE WROTE TO JALAL -

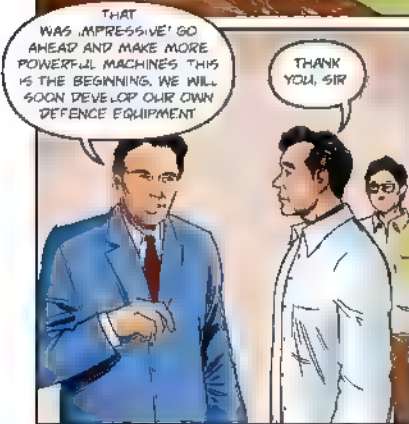




*NOW BENGALURU
*OPERATIONS

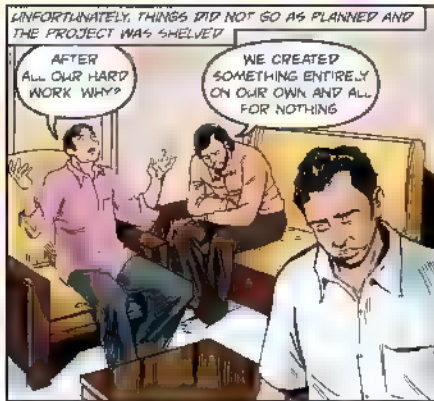


SOON THE HOVERCRAFT, NAMED NANDI*, WAS READY. THE DEFENCE MINISTER KRISHNA MENON CAME FOR A RIDE.



THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE! GO AHEAD AND MAKE MORE POWERFUL MACHINES. THIS IS THE BEGINNING. WE WILL SOON DEVELOP OUR OWN DEFENCE EQUIPMENT.

THANK YOU, SIR.



UNFORTUNATELY, THINGS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED AND THE PROJECT WAS SHELVED.

AFTER ALL OUR HARD WORK WHY?

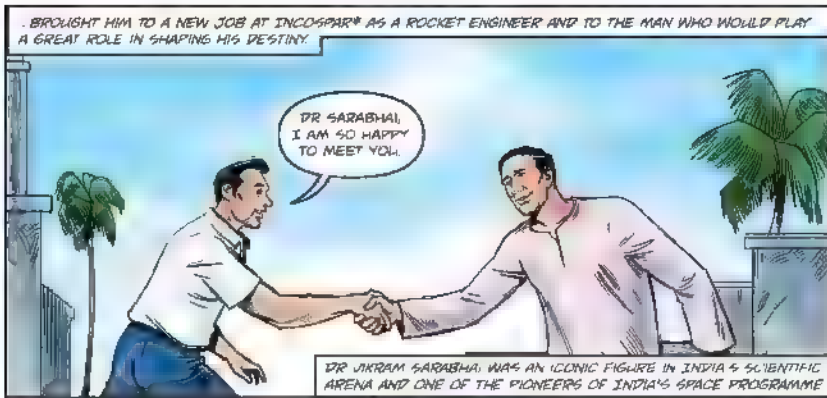
WE CREATED SOMETHING ENTIRELY ON OUR OWN AND ALL FOR NOTHING.



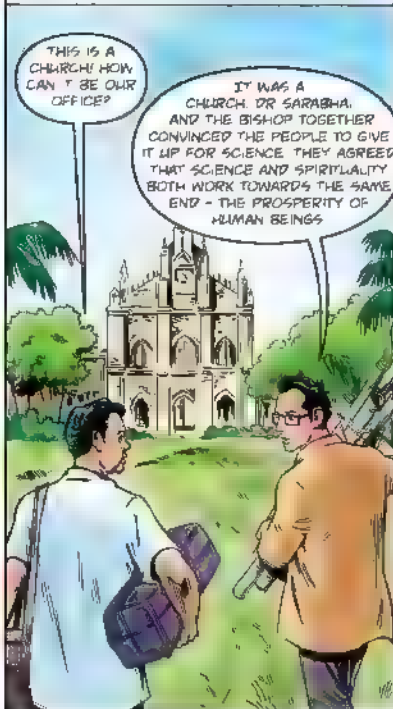
A WISE MAN ONCE TOLD ME THAT FAILURES POINT US TOWARDS OUR TRUE PATH. HARD WORK IS NEVER WASTED. MAYBE SOMETHING GOOD WILL COME OUT OF THIS.

ABDUL WAS SOON TO REALISE THE TRUTH OF THESE WORDS. FOR THE NANDI PROJECT

*THE HOVERCRAFT WAS NAMED AFTER NANDI, THE BULL, LORD SHIVA'S VEHICLE



ABDUL'S FIRST PROJECT WAS AT THE EQUATORIAL ROCKET LAUNCHING STATION IN THUMBAA, A SMALL VILLAGE IN KERALA, CHOSEN BECAUSE IT WAS LOCATED ON THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC EQUATOR

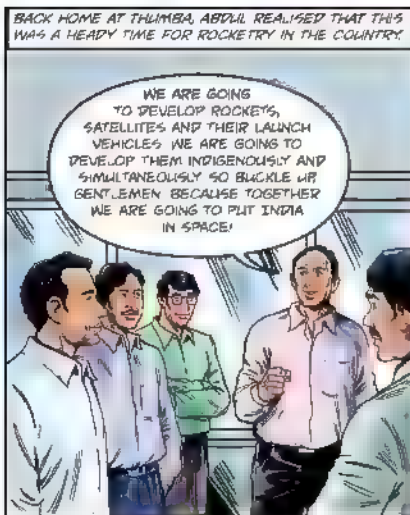
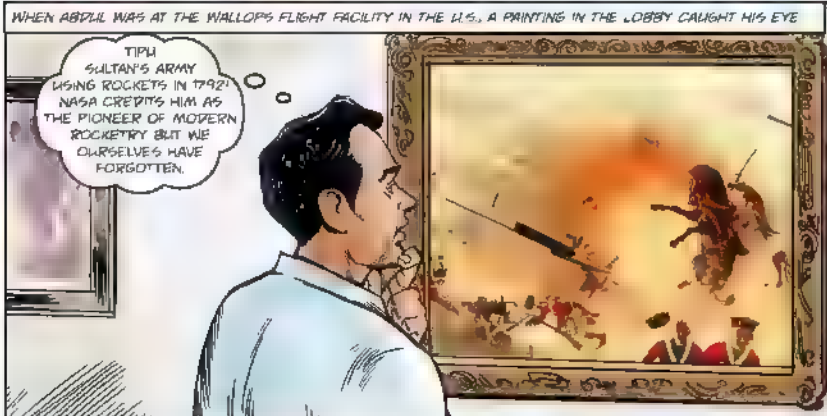
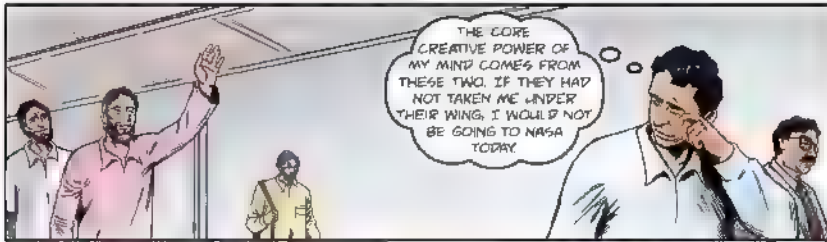


VERY SOON ABDUL WAS SENT TO THAT MECCA FOR ANY ROCKET SCIENTIST - NASA** IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE WAS TRAVELLING ABROAD AND BOTH JALAL AND SHAMSUDDIN CAME TO BOMBAY** TO SEE HIM OFF



*INDIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SPACE RESEARCH, LATER ISRO (INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION), **NOW MUMBAI

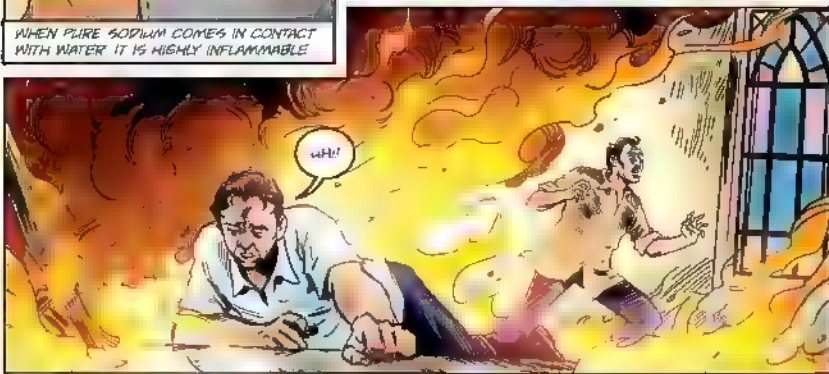
**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, USA

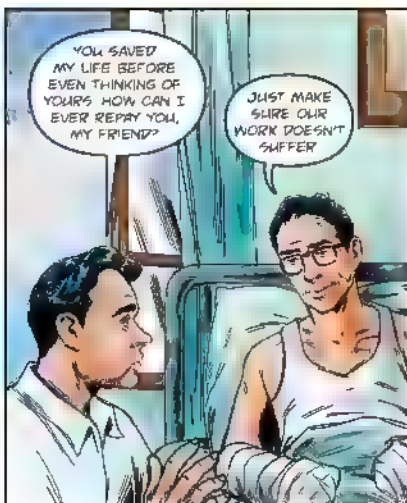


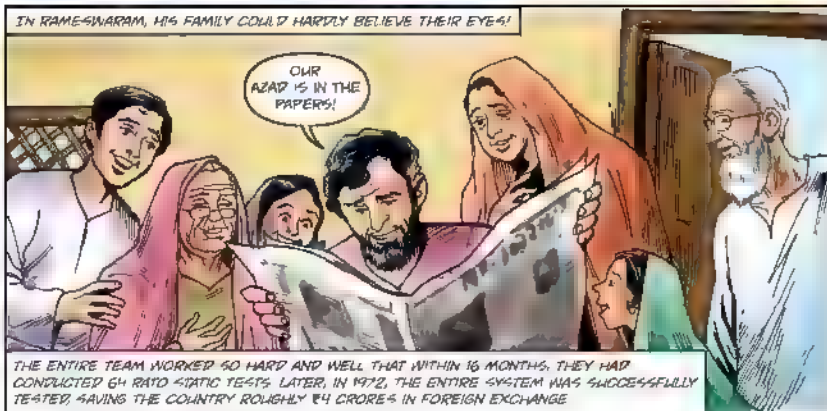
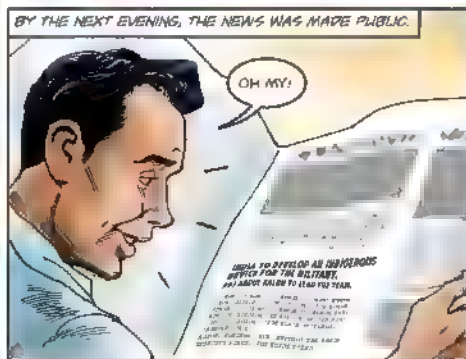
AS SUDHAKAR BENT OVER TO INSPECT THE MIXTURE A SINGLE DROP OF SWEAT FROM HIS FOREHEAD FELL INTO IT.



WHEN PURE SODIUM COMES IN CONTACT WITH WATER IT IS HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE







*ROCKET-ASSISTED TAKE-OFF SYSTEM. THIS WAS TO HELP MILITARY AIRCRAFT TAKE OFF FROM SHORT RUNWAYS ESPECIALLY IN DIFFICULT TERRAIN LIKE THE HIMALAYAS.

BY 1969, IT WAS DECIDED THAT AN INDIAN SATELLITE LAUNCHING VEHICLE (SLV) WOULD BE BUILT. SRIHARIKOTA ISLAND OFF CHENNAI WAS CHOSEN AND AGAIN, ABDUL WAS MADE A PROJECT LEADER. HE WAS ALSO GIVEN THE TASK OF DESIGNING THE 4TH STAGE OF THE SLV. A MISSILE PANEL HAD ALSO BEEN SET UP AND ABDUL WAS PART OF THAT TOO. BESIDES BUILDING ROCKETS, ABDUL WAS ALSO BUSY BUILDING TEAMS.



FOR HIS PART, ABDUL HAD COME TO A REALISATION TOO.



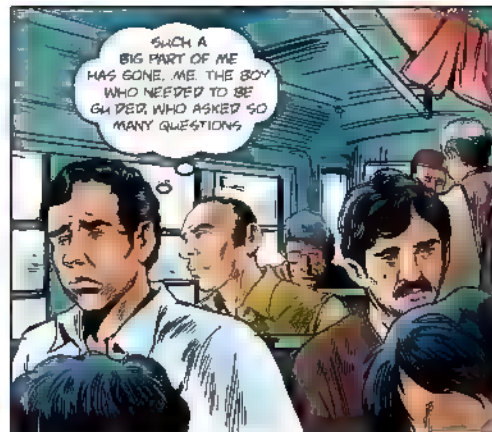
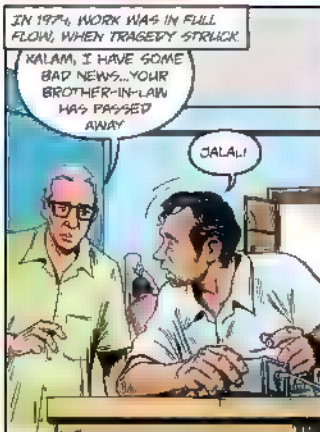
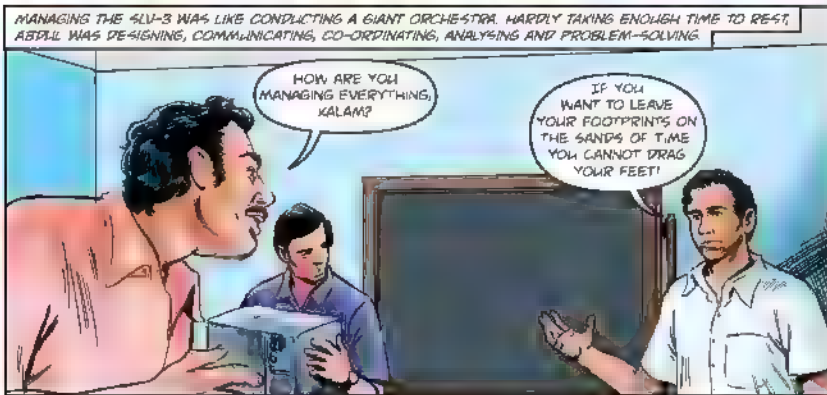
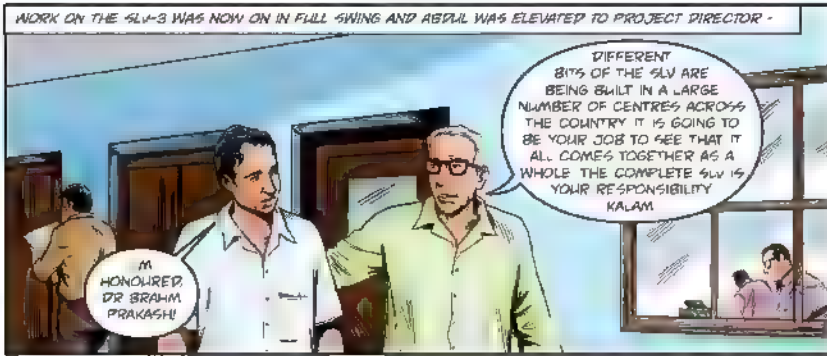
IT WAS NOT ALWAYS SMOOTH SAILING THOUGH. SINCE ABDUL PLACED GREAT TRUST IN HIS TEAM, HE ONCE MADE HIS TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT THEIR PARTS OF THE DESIGN. IT WAS A SUCCESS, BUT -

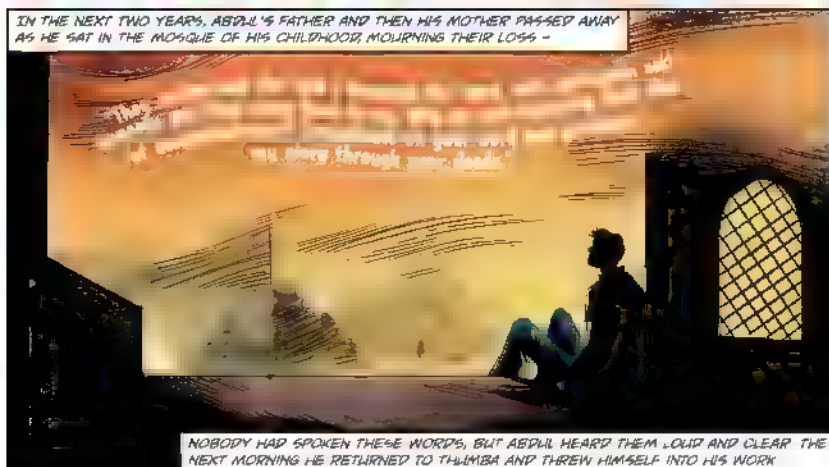
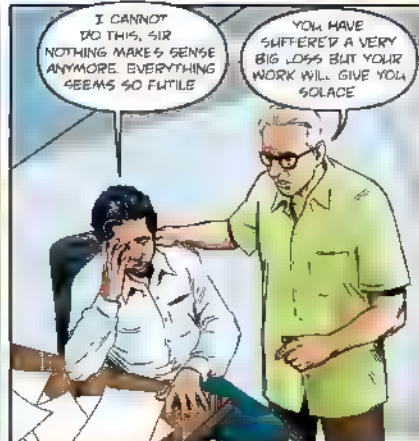


DR SARABHAJI'S PATRONAGE OF ABDUL WAS NOT TO LAST LONG. IN DECEMBER 1971, JUST A FEW HOURS AFTER SPEAKING TO ABDUL ON THE PHONE, DR SARABHAJI PASSED AWAY.



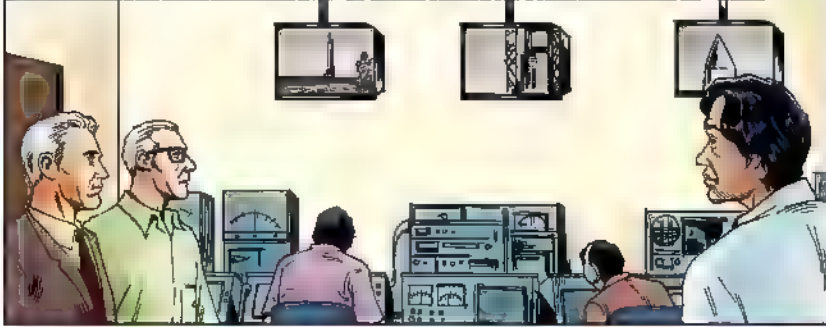
THE COMPLEX AT THUMBAL AND ALL ITS AFFILIATED CENTRES WERE MERGED TO FORM THE VIKRAM SARABHAJI SPACE CENTRE (VSSC) WITH DR BRAHM PRAKASH IN CHARGE. WHILE ISRO WAS NOW HEADED BY PROF SATISH DHAWAN.



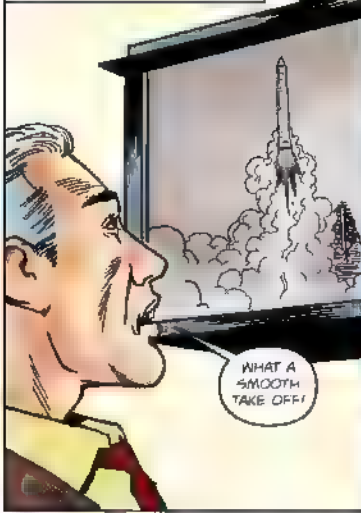


AMAR CH TRA KATHA

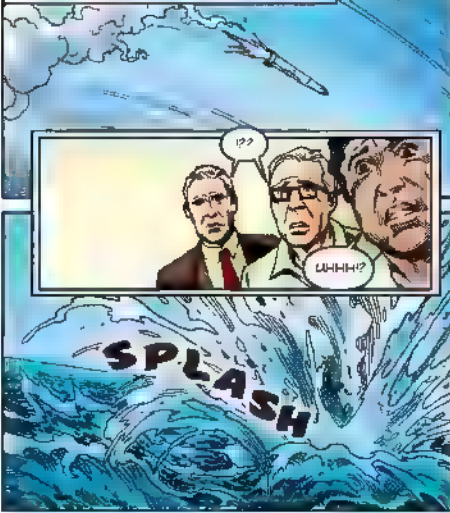
BY AUGUST 1979, THE SLV-3 WAS READY FOR ITS FIRST TRIAL. ABDUL AND HIS TEAMMATES HAD BEEN WORKING FEVERISHLY FOR DAYS. WITH THEM WERE DR BRAHM PRANASH AND PROF SATISH DHAWAN.



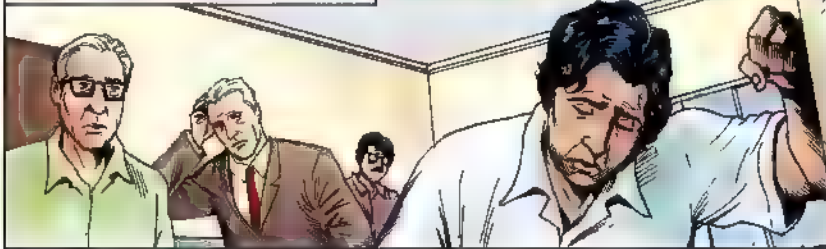
STAGE 1 PERFORMED PERFECTLY

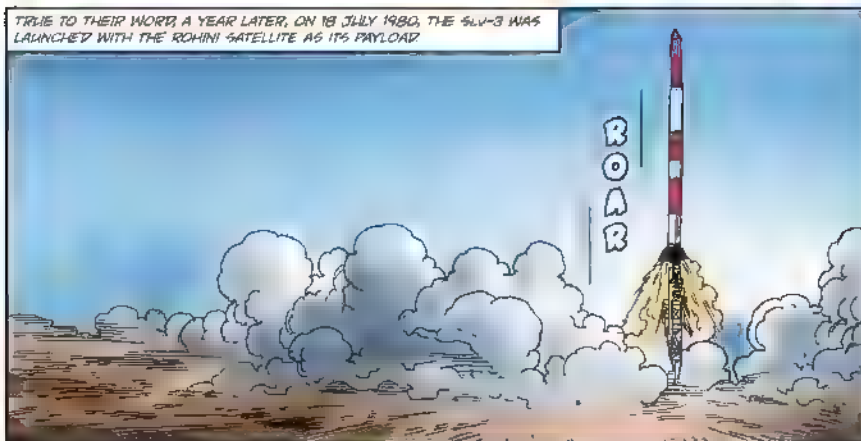
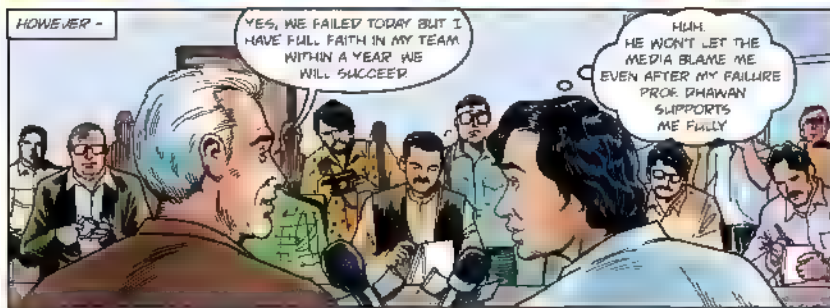
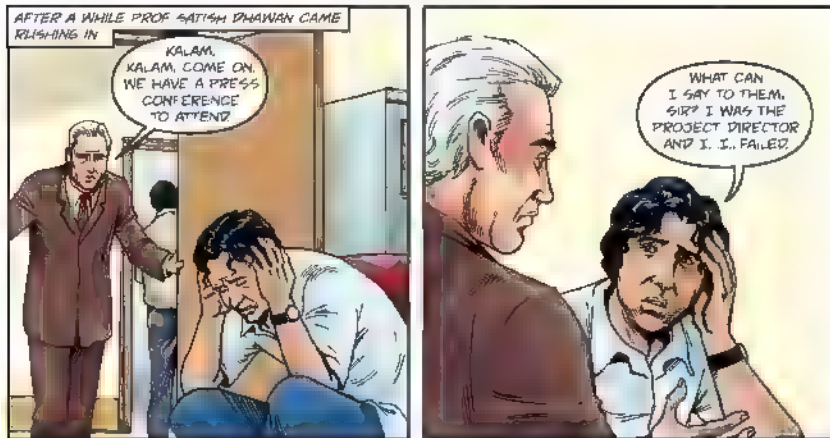


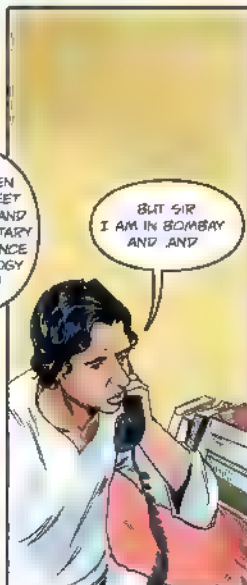
BUT STAGE 2 SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL



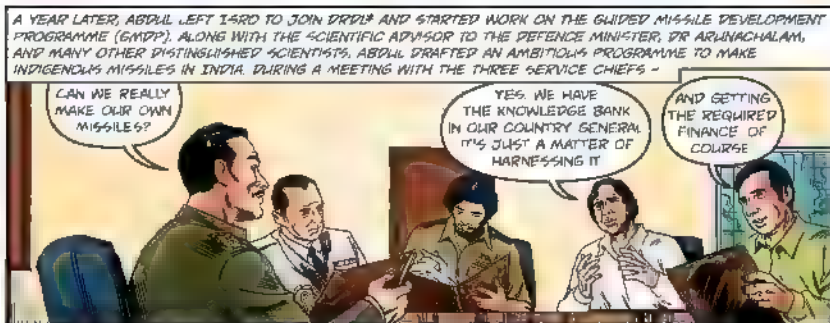
THERE WAS SHOCK AND DISBELIEF ALL AROUND



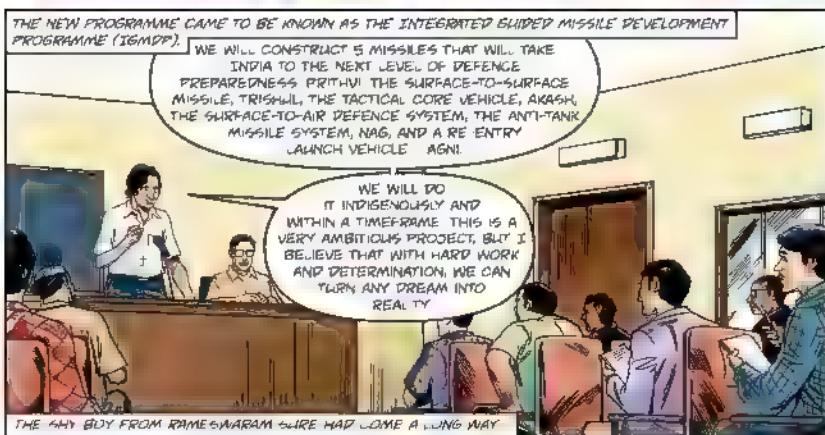
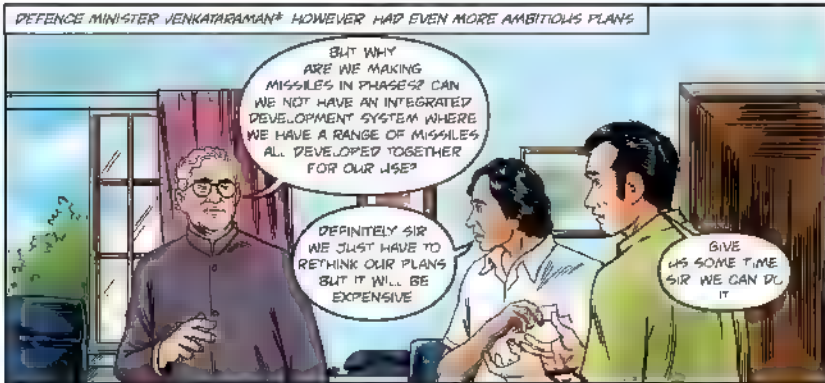




*INDIRA SANDHI, THEN PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



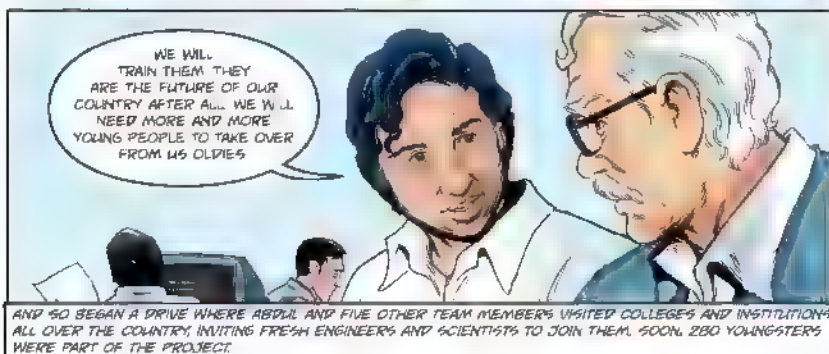
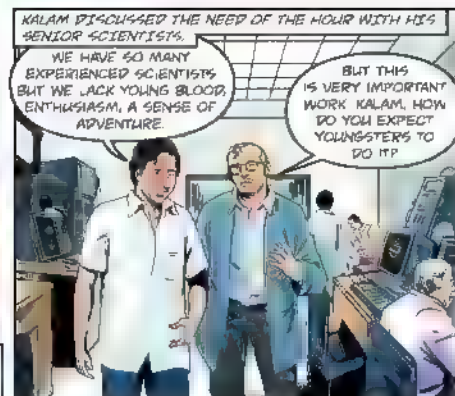
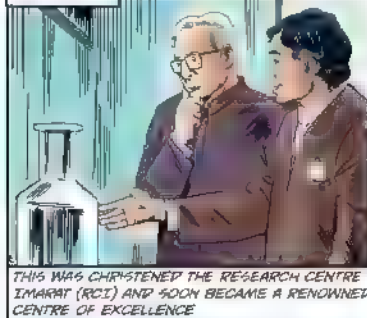
*DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY, THE MISSILE SYSTEM LABORATORY OF THE DRDO (DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION)

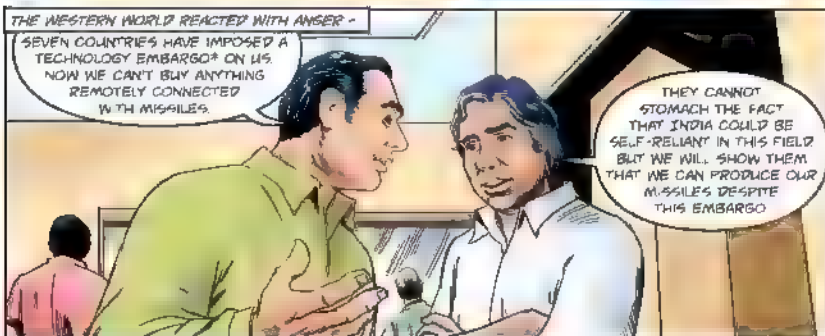
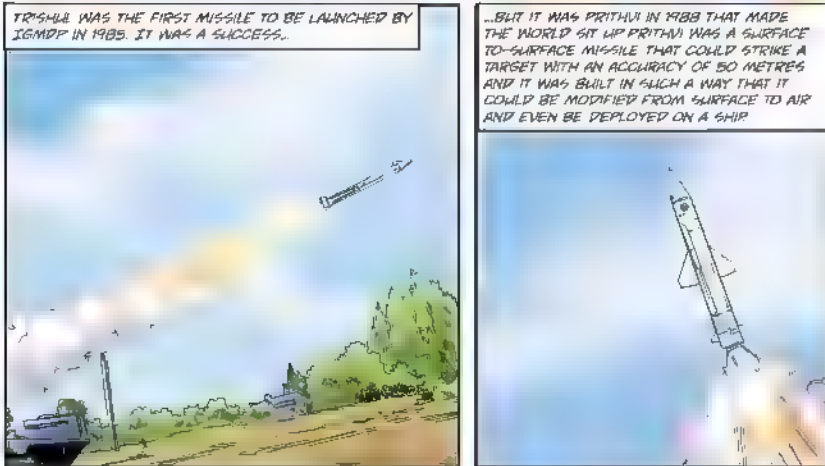
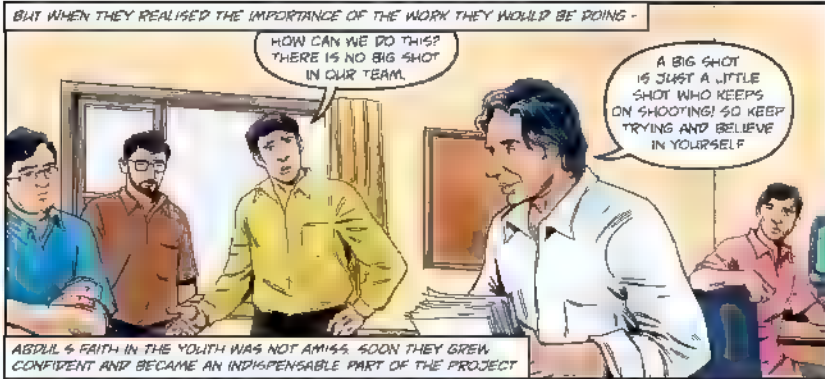


*LATER THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF INDIA

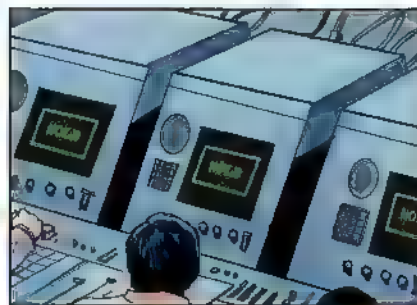
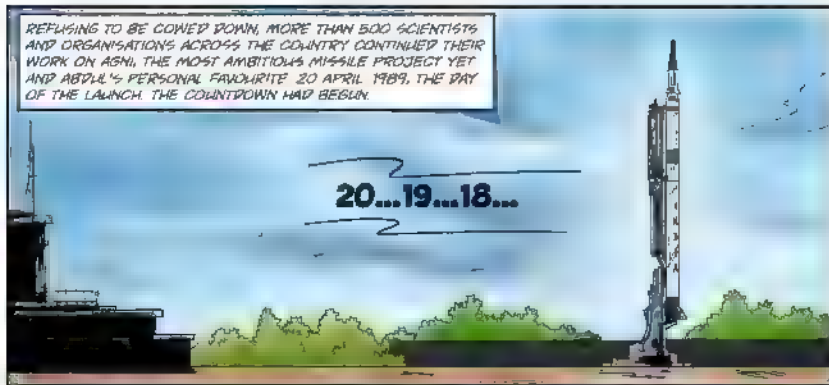


AFTER THAT, HE CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING A MODERN LABORATORY IN HYDERABAD WHERE ALL THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE





*OFFICIAL BAN

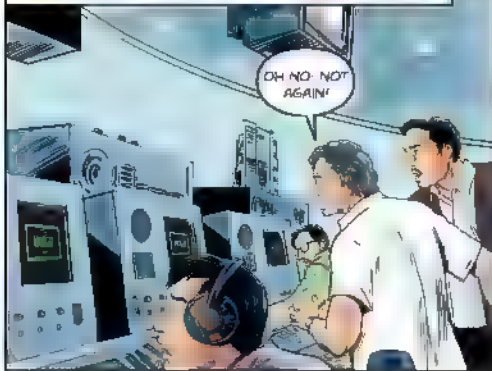


*T INDICATES THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH
SO T MINUS 14 SECONDS INDICATES
14 SECONDS BEFORE LAUNCH.

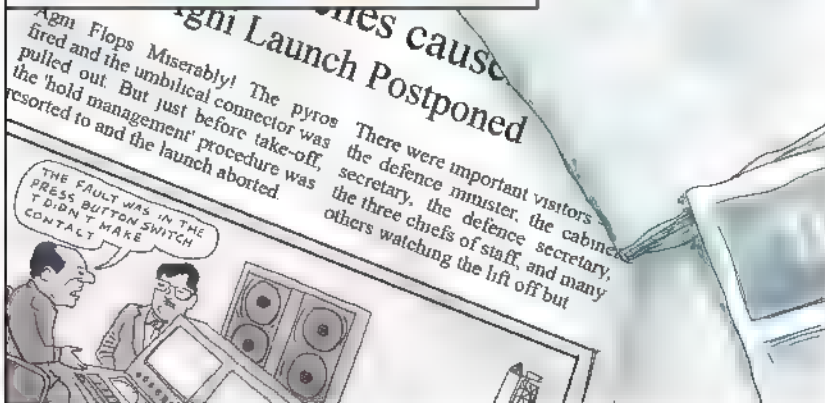
THE SCIENTISTS WERE DISHEARTENED AND ABDUL COULD FEEL THE EYES OF THE WORLD BORING INTO HIM.

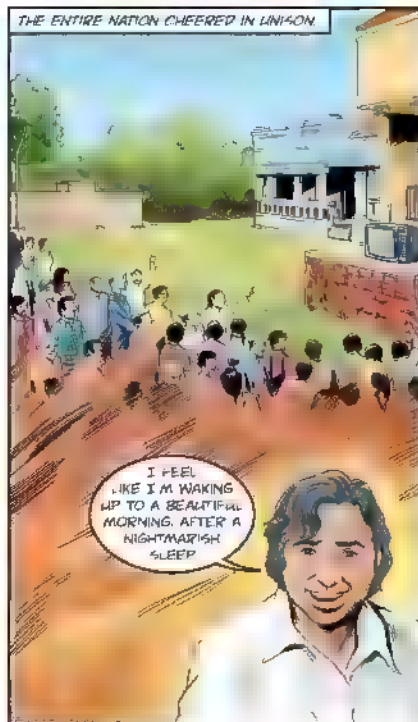
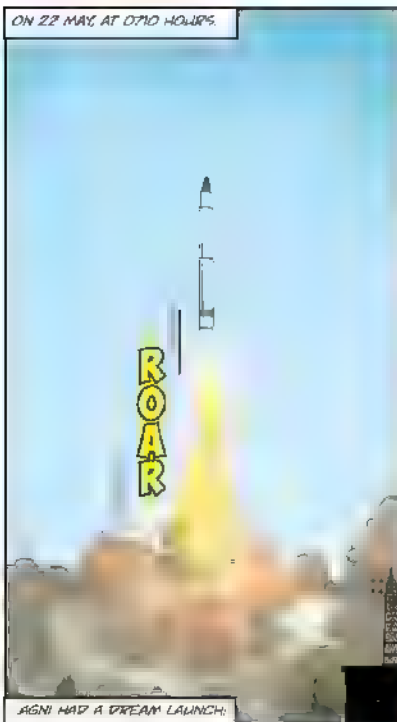


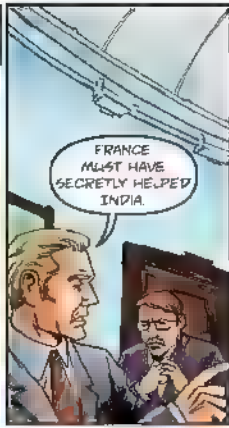
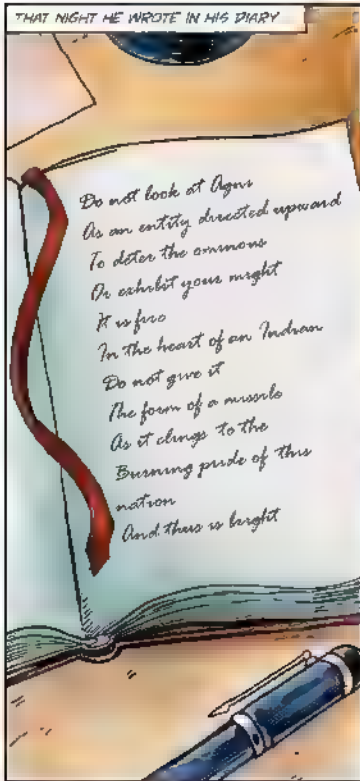
TEN DAYS LATER, AGNI WAS TO BE LAUNCHED AGAIN, BUT



ABDUL AND THE TEAM BECAME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE NATION





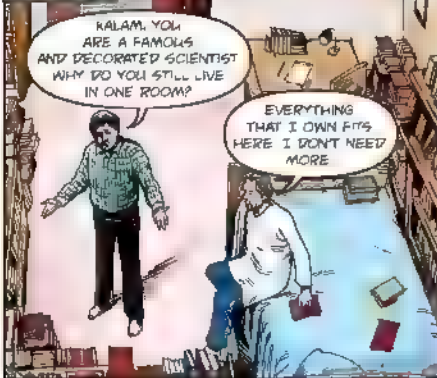


A P. ABDUL KALAM

REPUBLIC DAY, 1990, BROUGHT WITH IT THE NEWS THAT ABDUL AND DR ARVINDHARAM HAD BOTH BEEN DECORATED WITH THE PADMA VIBHUSHAN. TWO OTHER COLLEAGUES WERE AWARDED THE PADMA SHRI. IT WAS INDEED A GOOD DAY FOR THE IASMP.



ALL THIS RECOGNITION AND HONOUR COULD NOT CHANGE ABDUL. HE HAD LEARNED TO MAKE HIS VOICE HEARD BUT AT HEART, HE WAS STILL THE SIMPLE ISLAND BOY.



KALAM, YOU ARE A FAMOUS AND DECORATED SCIENTIST. WHY DO YOU STILL LIVE IN ONE ROOM?

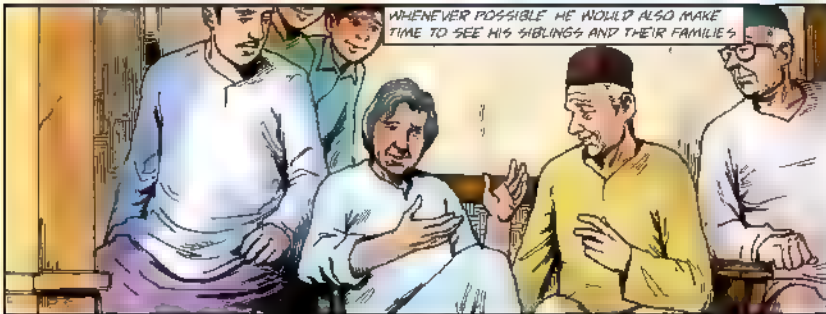
EVERYTHING THAT I OWN FITS HERE. I DON'T NEED MORE.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, ABDUL WENT TO MADURAI TO FIND HIS OLD TEACHER REVEREND SOLOMON WHO HAD SHOWN HIM THE POWER OF DREAMS.



YOU HAVE NOT ONLY REACHED MY GOALS, ABDUL. YOU HAVE ECLIPSED THEM.

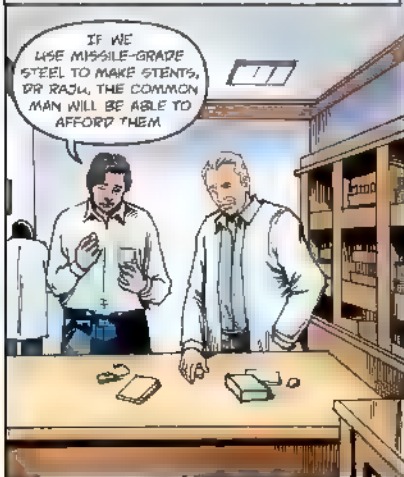
YOU TAUGHT ME SIR THAT GREAT DREAMS OF GREAT DREAMERS ARE ALWAYS TRANSCENDED.*



WHENEVER POSSIBLE HE WOULD ALSO MAKE TIME TO SEE HIS SIBLINGS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

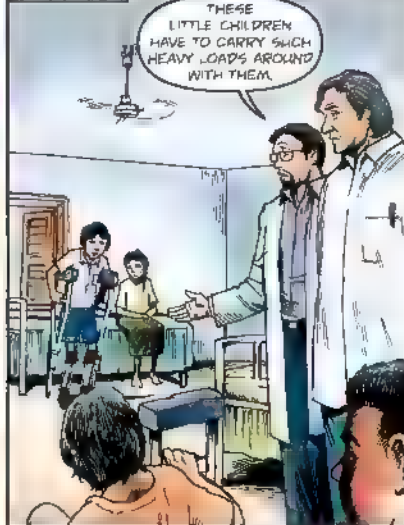
*TAKEN FORWARD

ALTHOUGH ABDUL HAD BEEN USING TECHNOLOGY TO EMPOWER DEFENCE FORCES, HE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT IT SHOULD ALSO BE USED TO HELP PEOPLE



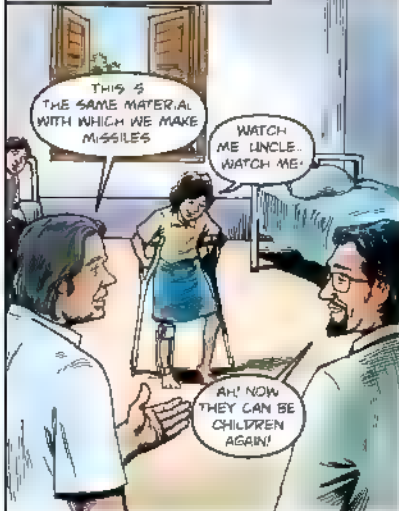
CARDIOLOGIST DR B. SOMA RAJU AND ABDUL WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE THE 'KALAM-RAJU' STENTS WHICH BROUGHT THE PRICE DOWN FROM ₹75,000 TO ₹10,000!

ANOTHER SUCH INNOVATION BROUGHT ABDUL EVEN GREATER JOY



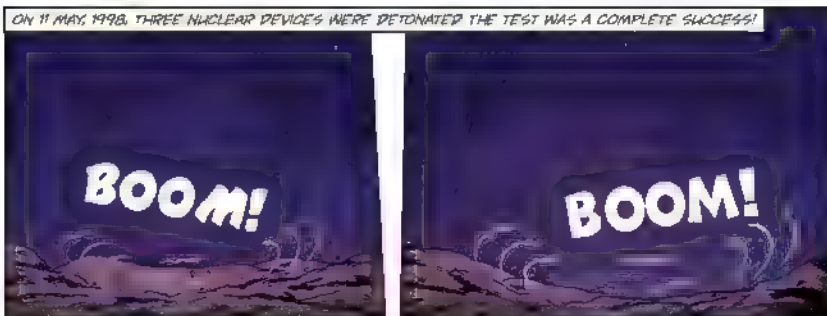
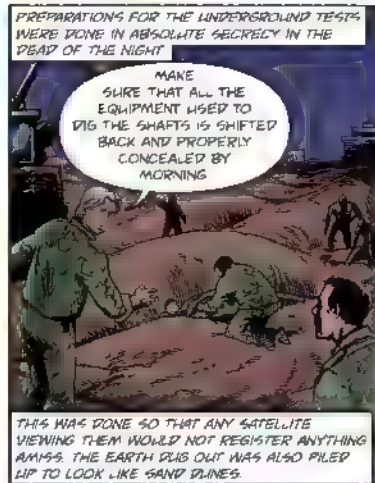
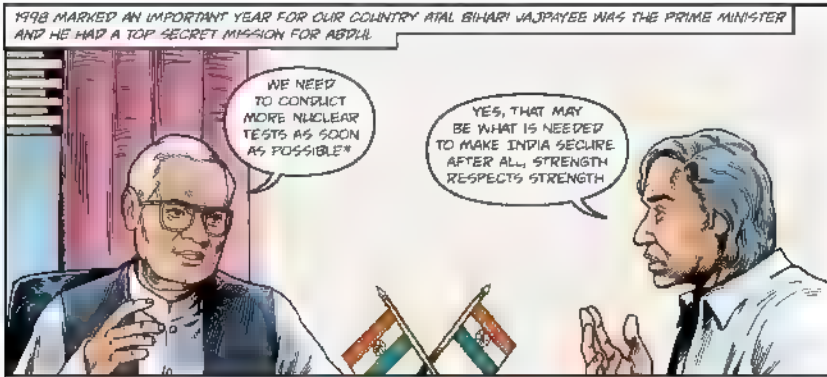
THEY WERE POLIO-INFECTED CHILDREN WHO HAD TO WEAR METAL CALLIPERS WEIGHING 4 KILOS

ABDUL AND HIS TEAM GOT TO WORK AND WITHIN WEEKS THEY HAD PRODUCED CALLIPERS THAT WEIGHED LESS THAN 400 GRAMS

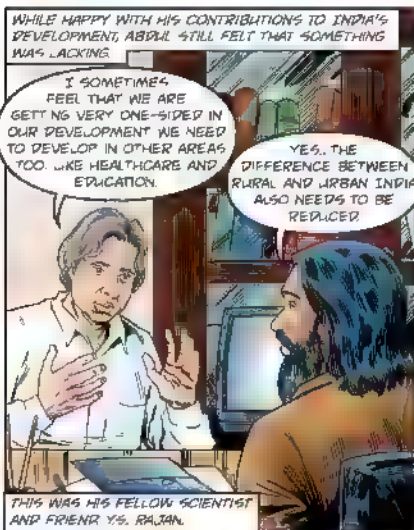
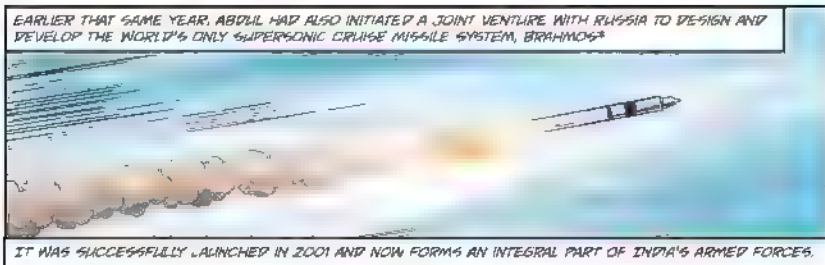
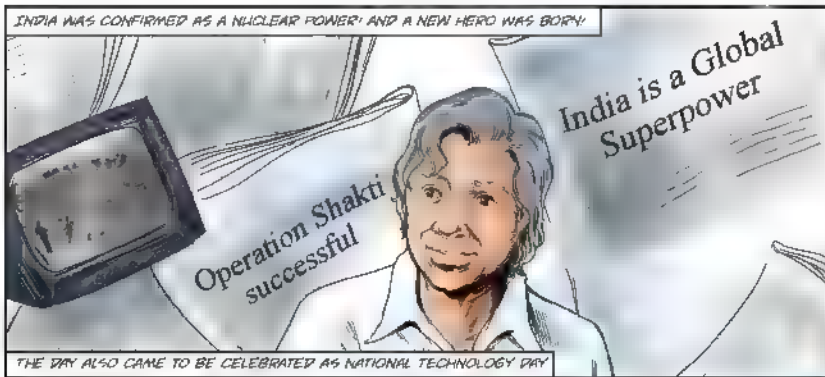


IN 1992 ABDUL SUCCEEDED DR ARUNACHALAM AS SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR TO THE DEFENCE MINISTER AND SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AROUND THIS TIME, HE WAS ALSO AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES. THE BIGGEST HONOUR CAME WHEN HE WAS AWARDED THE BHARAT RATNA, INDIA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD IN 1997



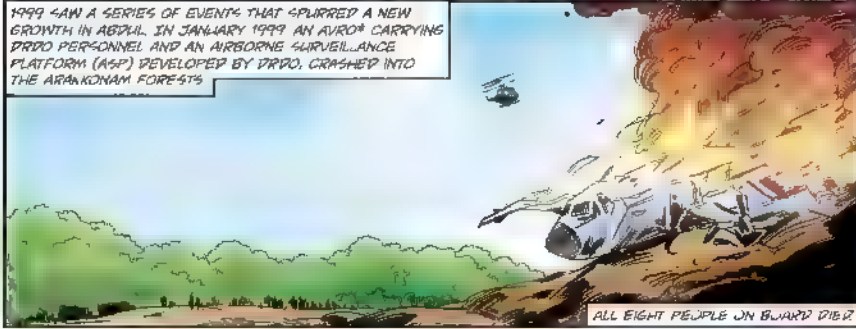


*THE FIRST NUCLEAR TEST WAS CONDUCTED ON 18 MAY, 1974, WHEN INDIRA GANDHI WAS THE PRIME MINISTER



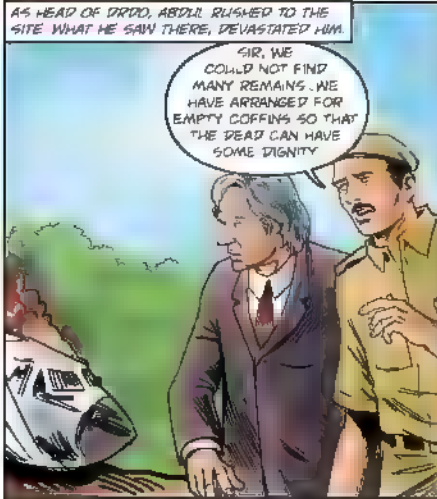
*NAMED AFTER THE RIVERS BRAHMAPUTRA IN INDIA AND MOSKVA IN RUSSIA

1999 SAW A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT SPURRED A NEW GROWTH IN ABDUL. IN JANUARY 1999 AN AVRO* CARRYING DRDO PERSONNEL AND AN AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE PLATFORM (ASP) DEVELOPED BY DRDO, CRASHED INTO THE ARMAKONAM FORESTS



ALL EIGHT PEOPLE ON BOARD DIED

AS HEAD OF DRDO, ABDUL RUSHED TO THE SITE. WHAT HE SAW THERE, DEVASTATED HIM.



SIR, WE COULD NOT FIND MANY REMAINS. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR EMPTY COFFINS SO THAT THE DEAD CAN HAVE SOME DIGNITY

BACK IN DELHI, HE MET THE BEREAVED FAMILIES.



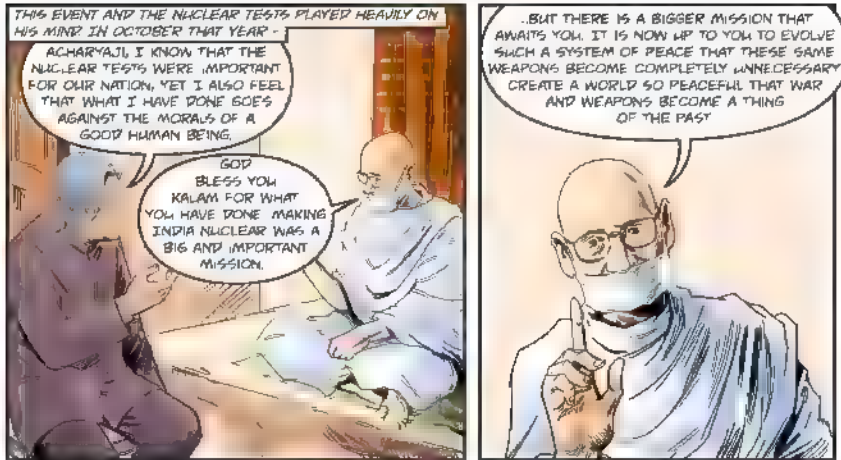
WHY DID YOU DO THIS? WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM NOW?

OH...MY GOD!




THIS IS THE NATURE OF SCIENCE. DANGERS LURK AT EVERY STEP. AND COMPLEX MISSIONS HAVE A LONG, HARD JOURNEY. THE SACRIFICES AND THE BRAVERY OF THESE MEN SHOULD NOT GO IN VAIN.

*A SMALL AIRCRAFT

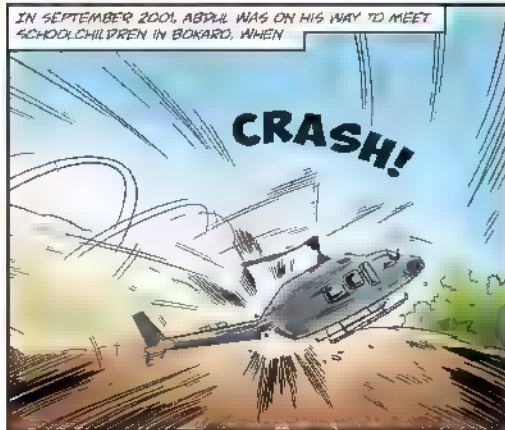


I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH ON THIS JOURNEY OF MY LIFE...IF I WRITE ABOUT IT, MAYBE SOMEWHERE A BOATMAN'S SON WILL SAY 'NO' TO HIS PRESCRIBED DESTINY; SOMEWHERE A CHILD WILL LEARN TO LOOK INWARDS AND FEEL SECURE THE WHOLE NATION WILL BENEFIT IF IT HAS STRONG INWARD-LOOKING PEOPLE AS ITS LEADERS.



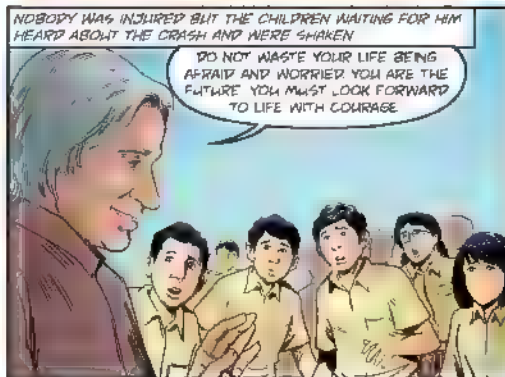
THIS THOUGHT LED ABDUL TO WRITE HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY 'WINGS OF FIRE'. IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF BOOKS INCLUDING 'IGNITED MINDS' AND 'TURNING POINTS'. ALL OF WHICH BECAME BEST-SELLERS.

IN SEPTEMBER 2001, ABDUL WAS ON HIS WAY TO MEET SCHOOLCHILDREN IN BOKARO, WHEN

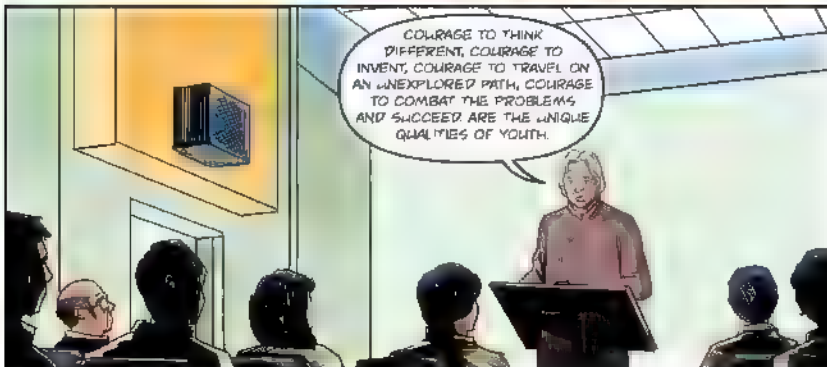


CRASH!

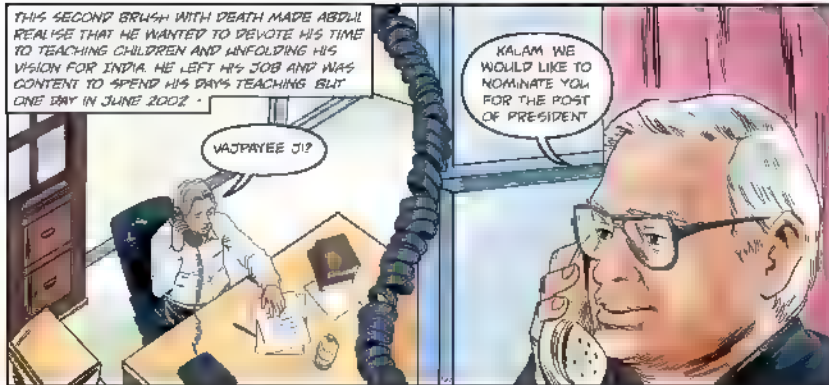
NOBODY WAS INJURED BUT THE CHILDREN WAITING FOR HIM HEARD ABOUT THE CRASH AND WERE SHAKEN

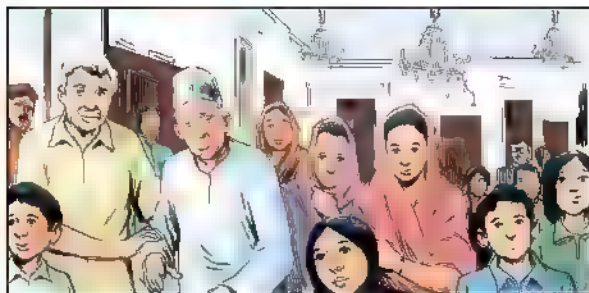
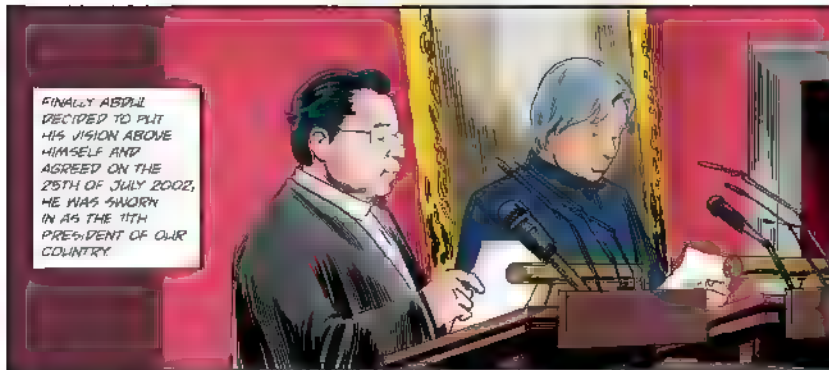


DO NOT WASTE YOUR LIFE BEING AFRAID AND WORRIED. YOU ARE THE FUTURE. YOU MUST LOOK FORWARD TO LIFE WITH COURAGE.



COURAGE TO THINK DIFFERENT, COURAGE TO INVENT, COURAGE TO TRAVEL ON AN UNEXPLORED PATH, COURAGE TO COMBAT THE PROBLEMS AND SUCCEED ARE THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF YOUTH.





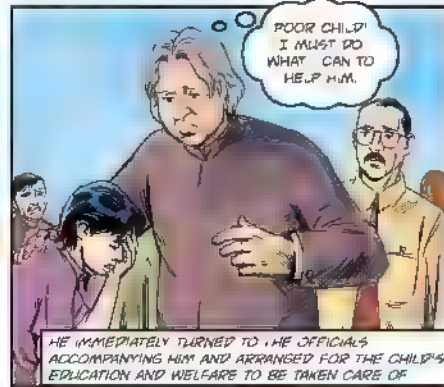
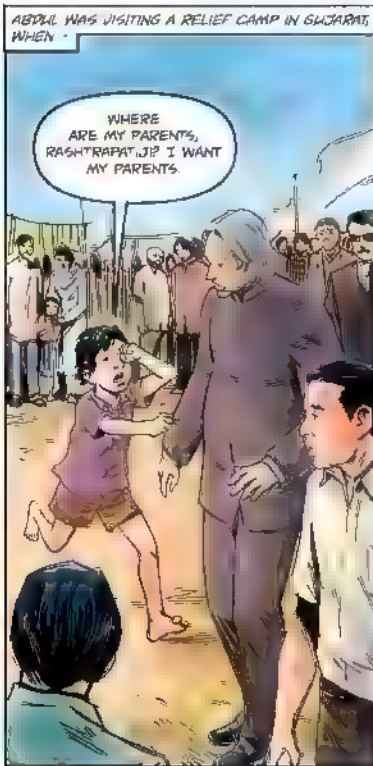
THE GUEST LIST WAS AS UNUSUAL AS ABDUL HIMSELF! BESIDES HIS FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES, HE INVITED HIS OLD PROFESSORS, THE IMAM OF HIS RAMESHWARAM MOSQUE, THE HEAD OF THE RAMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE AND THE PRIEST OF THE RAMESHWARAM CHURCH. THERE WERE ALSO 100 CHILDREN FROM DIFFERENT STATES OF INDIA!

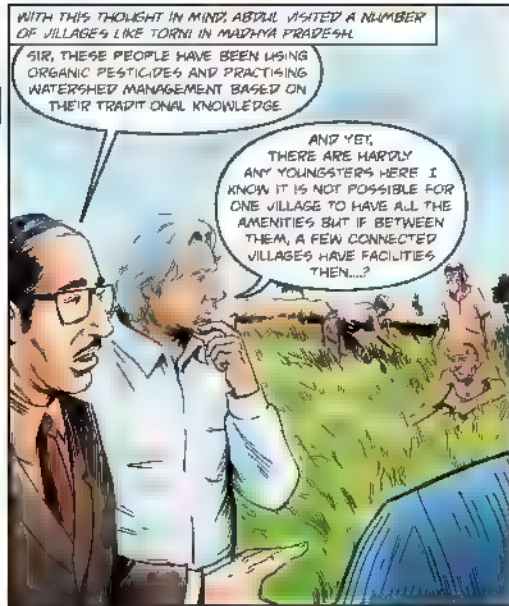
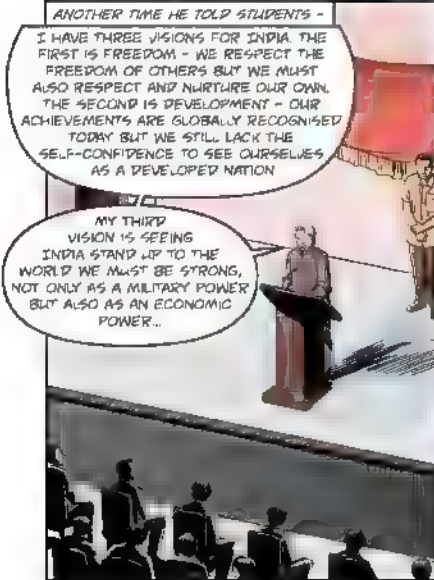


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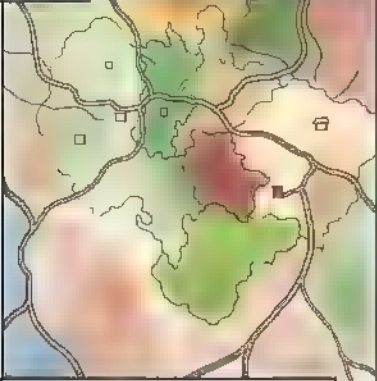








AND SO WAS BORN THE IDEA OF HAVING PLURA VILLAGE CLUSTERS - INSTITUTIONS, HOSPITALS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES SPREAD ACROSS A GROUP OF VILLAGES WELL CONNECTED BY ROAD - SO THAT LIFE IN THE VILLAGES WOULD BE PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY



ABDUL WAS SO HAPPY WITH THIS THOUGHT THAT HE DONATED HIS LIFE'S SAVINGS TO THE PROJECT.

FOR THE YOUNG, HE HAD BECOME AN ICON, A MENTOR AND THE GO-TO PERSON WHEN THEY WERE IN TROUBLE OR DOUBT.



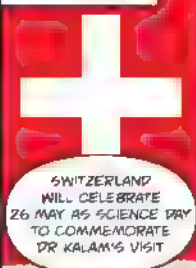
FOREIGN MEDIA COMMENTED ON HIS 'ROCKSTAR' LIKE BUZZ AND HE WAS EVEN NOMINATED TWICE FOR MTV'S YOUTH ICON OF THE YEAR AWARD. IT DID NOT MATTER THAT HE WAS THEN MORE THAN 73 YEARS OLD!

BY NOW, PEOPLE HAD REALISED THAT THEIR 'MISSILE MAN' WAS ALSO A VERY CARING PERSON. EVERYWHERE HE WENT HE WAS GREETED BY HORDES OF INDIANS WHO SOMETIMES WAITED ALL DAY TO GET A GLIMPSE OF HIM.



ABDUL TURNED OUT TO BE POPULAR AND EFFECTIVE EVEN IN HIS STATE VISITS TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN SWITZERLAND



SWITZERLAND WILL CELEBRATE 26 MAY AS SCIENCE DAY TO COMMEMORATE DR KALAM'S VISIT



IN SOUTH AFRICA

I GIVE TO YOU THE PAN AFRICAN E-NETWORK THAT WILL CONNECT INDIA AND THE 53-MEMBER NATIONS OF THIS GREAT CONTINENT TO EACH OTHER AND PROVIDE EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES



BUT THE CROWNING GLORY CAME WHEN ABDUL WAS INVITED TO ADDRESS THE PARLIAMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.



AS PRESIDENT, ABDUL WAS ALSO THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE MADE IT A POINT TO VISIT HIS MEN POSTED IN DIFFICULT TERRAINS. HE VISITED THE KUMAR POST ON GIACHEN GLACIER AND ROPE IN THE NAVAL SUBMARINE, INS SINDHURAKSHAK.



BUT HIS MOST CHERISHED MOMENT CAME IN JUNE 2006, WHEN HE VISITED AN AIR FORCE BASE IN PUNE.

THE MISSION COMPUTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT OF THIS SUKHOI HAVE ALL BEEN MADE IN INDIA.

VERY GOOD THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE

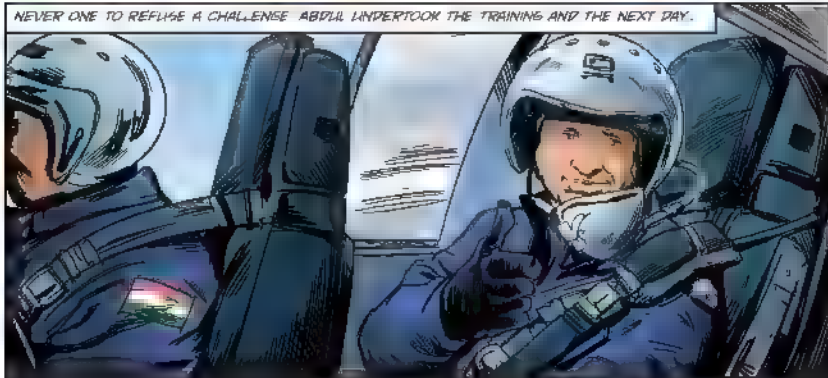


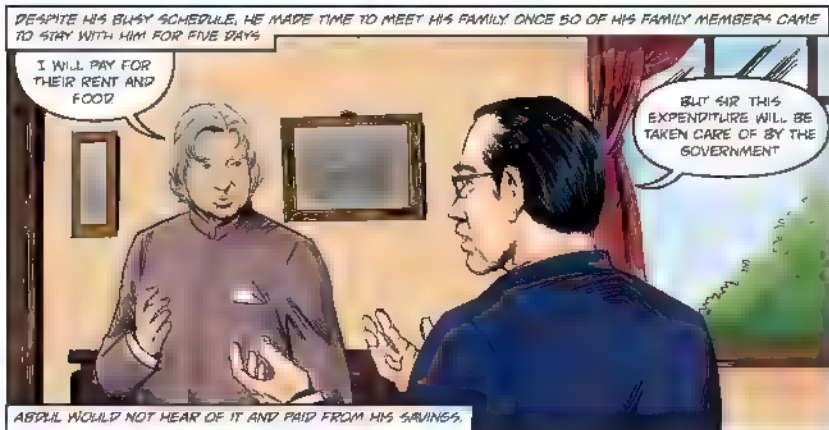
YOU KNOW, I ONCE DREAMED OF BECOMING A FIGHTER PILOT LIKE YOU. IT WAS MY BIGGEST DREAM.

I COULD TRAIN YOU, SIR YOU COULD FLY WITH ME AS A CO-PILOT.



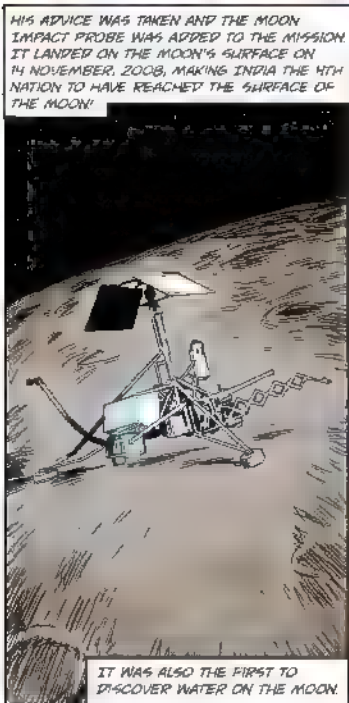
NEVER ONE TO REFUSE A CHALLENGE ABDUL UNDERTOOK THE TRAINING AND THE NEXT DAY...



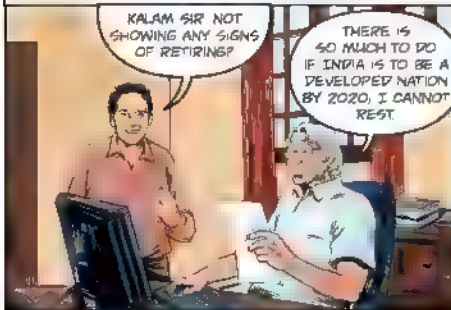


AMAR CH TRA KATHA





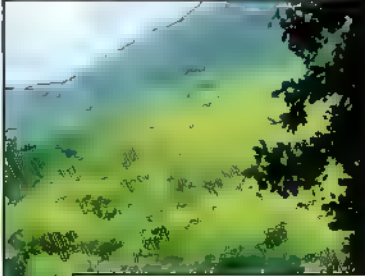
BY THE TIME ABDUL LEFT OFFICE, HE WAS 76 YEARS OLD BUT HE FOUND THAT HE WAS BUSIER THAN EVER



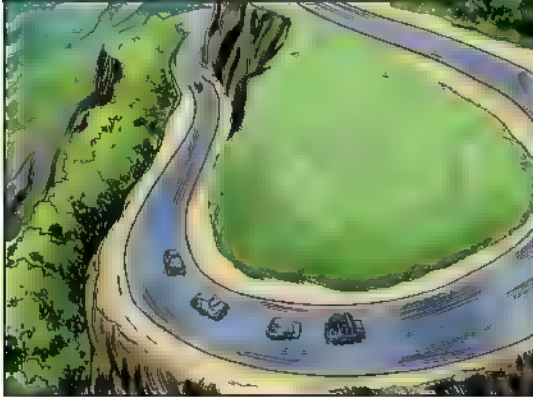
KALAM SIR NOT SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF RETIRING?

THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO IF INDIA IS TO BE A DEVELOPED NATION BY 2020, I CANNOT REST

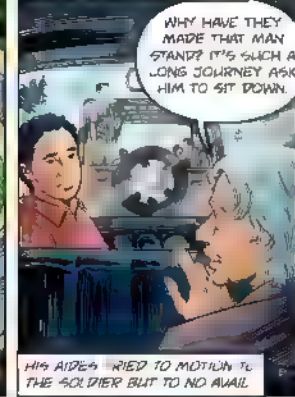
ABDUL PARTNERED WITH NUMEROUS UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE WORLD, DEVELOPING PROGRAMMES TO TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD



ON 27TH JULY 2015, HE WAS TRAVELLING TO IIM*, SHILLONG



ONE HOUR INTO THE DRIVE -



WHY HAVE THEY MADE THAT MAN STAND? IT'S SUCH A LONG JOURNEY ASK HIM TO SIT DOWN.

HIS AIDES TRIED TO MOTION TO THE SOLDIER BUT TO NO AVAIL

TWO HOURS LATER, WHEN THEY REACHED IIM -



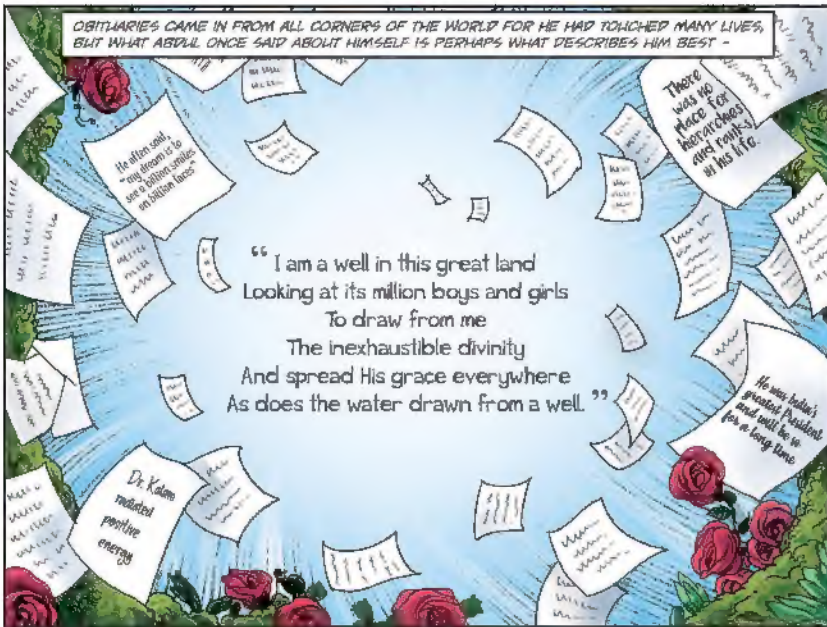
I AM SO SORRY YOU HAD TO STAND BECAUSE OF ME YOU MUST BE TIRED WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT?

SIR FOR YOU I CAN STAND FOR HOURS AND HOURS

*INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT



THE PUBLIC OUTPOURING OF GRIEF THAT FOLLOWED WAS UNPRECEDENTED. FROM SHILLONG, TO DELHI AND TO RAMESHWARAM HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE, THE MASSES THROGGED THE STREETS TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE 'PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT'. A PROUD AND PRACTISING MUSLIM BUT EQUALLY RESPECTFUL OF ALL OTHER RELIGIONS, A STOREHOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE BUT AN ETERNAL LEARNER, A HUMANITARIAN AND A TRUE INDIAN.



If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.

- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



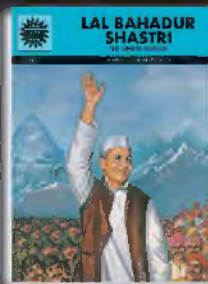
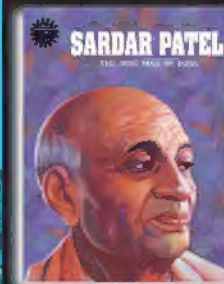


A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

A scientist, a writer, a poet, a teacher, a visionary and the 11th President of India – Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was all this and much more. One of the most beloved and admired men in recent times, Dr Kalam was a kind and gentle human being who believed firmly in the potential of India's people, especially her youth. He was a man who reached unimaginable heights but never forgot his roots. A man who brought his own brand of excellence and humility to everything he touched. He showed us the power of dedication and hard work and the power of honesty in character.

Most of all, he showed us the power of dreams. He said, "Dreams are not those that you see in your sleep...dreams are the things that do not let you sleep". The story of his life is a testimony to that belief.

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